

Minutes of the Broadband Committee Meeting
Saturday October 29, 2016
12:00 Noon – Sandisfield Town Hall Annex

In attendance: Jeff Bye, Alice Boyd, Doug Rocco. George Wheeler called in.

Alice welcomed the new committee members and thanked them for offering to serve.

Alice nominated Jeff Bye as the Committee Chairman. Doug Rocco seconded the nomination. She asked for other nominations. Hearing none she asked for a vote. Vote was unanimous. No secretary was selected.

Jeff Bye took over the role of Chairman and discussed the 5-town regional approach to securing Broadband services for Sandisfield. He discussed the history of the 5-town workgroup, the genesis of the quest for Broadband and WiredWest's role. He then brought the group up to date with the current project including the RFP for Broadband Services, discussions with Frontier, Westfield Gas & Electric, etc. Alice mentioned Matrix, New Hudson and Fiber Connect. Both emphasized the difficulty in getting any company to come into Sandisfield due to the lack of density and road miles.

Doug Rocco asked how we would accommodate changes in technology into the RFP. Jeff explained how fiber works. Doug mentioned wireless. Jeff and Alice commented on their previous hopes for wireless and what they had learned.

Jeff discussed the RFP process. Alice mentioned the Thursday call with MBI to discuss procurement through the MLP to avoid the need for a Home Rule Petition. Public Works procurement would allow for a 15-year contract versus the maximum 3-year contract if bid through the Board of Selectmen under MGL 30B. Alice discussed the requirements of Public Works procurement including a sealed price proposal and low bid award. Jeff discussed Frontier's proposal. George expressed concern that the RFP could not be crafted just for Frontier. Alice agreed.

Doug brought up what if we're unhappy with the service of the winning bidder. He will look into complaints he's heard from his daughter about Frontier.

Jeff stated that he would communicate with the group following the scheduled call with MBI. Doug will do some research on rural Broadband providers before the next meeting.

George Wheeler signed off to catch a flight. The meeting adjourned at 1:15 P.M.

Prepared by:
Alice Boyd

Minutes voted and approved:
Date: _____