

TOWN OF ALSTEAD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Alstead Broadband Committee

Approved Minutes for Meeting of July 15th, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
Municipal Building, 15 Mechanic Street, Alstead, NH 03602
Conference call: (978) 990-5000, access code 539083#
Google meet; <https://meet.google.com/gzp-ovpr-fyf>

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Gordon Kemp, Chris Rietmann, Joe Levesque, Joel McCarty (via Google Meet), Jim Howard, and Mark Mastrocinque.

TOWN STAFF PRESENT:

COMMUNITY MEMBERS PRESENT:

CALL TO ORDER: Gordon Kemp called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

GUESTS:

MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING: Minutes of July 8th, 2020: On a motion from Joel McCarty, seconded by Jim Howard the Committee voted to approve the minutes of the July 15th meeting.

DISCUSSION AND ACTIONS:

- Regarding the town survey. how will the survey responses come to us. Suggest Survey Monkey and allow respondents to drop their responses to Town Office. The survey will be in the form of a postcard with a link to Survey Monkey. The postcard will be available at the Town Office. The Town website will also have the Survey Monkey link. The major goal is to communicate to town residents what we are proposing and that we are interested in their opinion. The mailing will have some questions and contact information to the committee. Chris will setup Survey Monkey.
- The postcard will announce the existence of the Broadband Committee, it encourage membership, it provides a summary of what we hope to achieve and our goals, lists the date/time of future meetings and announces our survey.
 1. Are you happy with your internet service?
 2. Who is your internet provider?
 3. Do you currently have high speed internet service?
 4. Would you like to bring broadband to Alstead?
 5. Do you consider your internet service a good value?
 6. Does your internet provider meet the FCC definition of 25mbps download & 3mbps upload.

We will leave space for comments. Homes and businesses will be surveyed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- i. Town-wide survey/questions/cost? Cost of the mailing is \$213. 1,190 pieces of paper that must be copied, folded and taped. Joel believes it can be done with a postcard.
- ii. Brad Roscoe was contacted by Carol Miller and he responded.
- iii. Franchise Agreement with Comcast was provided by Charlotte to Joe.
- iv. There are 64.87 miles of paved and dirt **town** roads in Alstead. 16.92 miles of class #6 roads are not maintained by the town. There are three state roads totaling 14.82 miles in Alstead. Class 6 roads measure Joe Levesque will ask David Konescoe. Haven't heard back from D. Konescoe.
- v. Post minutes and meeting schedule on website – Charlotte is working on it.
- vi. Satellite update from Jim Howard: Starlink is close to a beta test. Amazon has big plans but is in the regulatory phase. OneWeb has launched 34 satellites using Russian rockets. They filed for bankruptcy in March of 2020. The U.K. government along with an Indian company has plans to buy the company. OneWeb appears to be planning on commercial internet service.

NEW BUSINESS:

- I. Presently the Alstead Broadband Committee has been appointed by the Select Board. All draft minutes will be saved as written. Any amendments' will be made at the next committee meeting and voted to be approved.
- II. HB-1111 has passed both N.H. House and Senate. When you send out an RFI, if the provider does not answer we can consider the entire area unserved. Towns can band together as "communication districts".

OTHER ITEMS:

- a. Public comments
- b. Next meeting Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:30 P.M.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Joe Levesque will talk to Julie and Charlotte about placing broadband survey in the lobby Town Offices.
- Chris Rietmann will put the Survey Monkey survey together.
- Joe Levesque will determine the cost of a postcard printing & mailing.
- We have the contract & RFP with Consolidated Communications. Brad Roscoe pointed us to a copy of the Chesterfield RFI on the Monadnock Broadband Group website. Jim Howard will draft an RFI.
- Franchise agreement with Comcast was provided by Charlotte to Joe Levesque.

On a motion by Joe Levesque and seconded by Chris Rietmann, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:42PM. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mastrocinque, Secretary

The next meeting of the Broadband Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020 at 6:30PM

This is a draft of the official meeting minutes. It is currently approved