

**Broadband Commission Meeting
September 22, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Richmond Public Library**

Present: Doug Smith, Chair, Maryann Lauretti, Vice Chair, Rick Flagler (Alternate, seated for Jonathan Schreckengost), Wendy O'Brien, Ron Raymond, Ryan Waters (Alternate).

Not Present: Jonathan Schreckengost

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of September 8, 2022 Minutes

Maryann Lauretti noted that she did not second the motion to attend the September 12 Selectmen's Meeting. Maryann made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2022 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Rick Flagler and passed.

Old Business

RFP

Commission members discussed the responses to the RFP. After reviewing the proposal from Spectrum/Charter, the Commission recommended rejection of this proposal as it did not include installation for the entire Town or upgrading existing customers.

The Commission then discussed the proposal from Hub66. Members were interested both in the technology proposed and the importance of competition. The Commission recommended that the Selectmen pursue negotiations with Hub66, although the 70% participation rate from the Town was not acceptable, and a detailed timeline was also necessary.

Doug Smith and Maryann reviewed the meeting with the Selectmen and Mary Ellen Player from Consolidated. Consolidated is contractually obligated to install fiber in Richmond by 2027 through the Digital Opportunity Fund Award. Mary Ellen indicated that if the Town was willing to apply for grant funding, they could significantly increase the timeline for installation to possibly early 2024. Consolidated would write most of the grant. They would require a letter of commitment prior to the grant application. The Commission recommended that the Selectmen pursue applying for the grant, but also requested that information on the end cost to the customer be provided.

Maryann made a motion that Wendy O'Brien forward the Commission's recommendations to Susan Harrington at Town Hall. Rick seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Attendance at Meetings

There was a brief discussion of attendance at Commission meetings as the number of Commission members is capped at 5 members and 2 alternates. There is an interested member of the public who would like to serve on the Commission, so current members should plan to attend the meetings or resign so that others may serve.

Set Agenda for Next Meeting

The next meeting will include addressing responses from the Selectmen and providers as well as deciding the next steps forward. Depending on their responses, there may be a meeting on September 29 at 7:00 at the Library. Several members noted that they would be willing to attend the Selectmen's meeting on September 26 if needed.

Adjournment

Maryann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rick and the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy O'Brien