

Broadband Commission Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Richmond Public Library

Members Present: Doug Smith, Chair, Maryann Lauretti, Wendy O'Brien, Ron Raymond.

Members Not Present: Jonathan Schreckengost, Rick Flagler (Alternate), Ryan Waters (Alternate)

Guests: Mark and Susan Lanen

The meeting was brought to order at 7:07 p.m. by Doug Smith, Chair.

Minutes: Wendy O'Brien noted that Rick Flagler's name had been misspelled in the minutes. Doug made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2022 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Maryann Lauretti and passed unanimously.

Old Business

RFP: The Commission members discussed the letter from Consolidated Communications outlining that they are planning to build a fiber network in Richmond by 2027 as part of the requirements of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Consolidated suggested a meeting to discuss the possibility of Richmond obtaining a state grant to partially fund the network, leading to an accelerated timeline of possibly installing the network in early 2024.

Ron Raymond inquired if he should contact Mark Laliberte, the Broadband Projects Manager at the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs regarding the state's Broadband Matching Grant Initiative in relation to this project.

The Commission members discussed the next steps, including scheduling a meeting with the Selectmen regarding pursuing the grant mentioned by Consolidated. Doug stated that the Commission should still review the incoming proposals which are due on September 15. The members wondered if the proposed grant would only apply to a contract with Consolidated, or if it could be used for other providers.

Doug made a motion for Commission members to attend the September 12th Selectmen's meeting to ask the Selectmen to pursue the grant, but not to select a provider. The motion was seconded by Maryann and passed unanimously. Ron will contact Susan Harrington at Town Hall to schedule an appointment for the Selectmen's meeting. He will also contact Mary Ellen Player at Consolidated to see if a representative could also attend the meeting.

PowerPoint Presentation: It was decided to table the preparation of the PowerPoint presentation for the time being.

New Business

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Maryann mentioned the recent invitation to all Town volunteers for an appreciation BBQ on Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 p.m. If anyone is interested in attending, they should contact Pam Bielunis at PJB327@msn.com by September 20.

Appointment of Alternate: Mark Lanen indicated his willingness to serve as an alternate on the Commission. Maryann made a motion to appoint Mark as an alternate member of the Commission. The motion was seconded by Doug and passed unanimously.

Next Meeting Date: September 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Richmond Public Library. The focus of this meeting is to review received RFP's and to discuss the results of the Selectmen's meeting.

Adjournment: Maryann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Doug and passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy O'Brien, Secretary