

Town of Deerfield
Cable Committee
October 28, 2021
DRAFT Minutes

Cable committee members appointed, with contact information, include:

Harriet Cady – kd4318@yahoo.com

Thomas Nadeau – tnadeau@lucidvision.com

Tyler Boutwell – Chair - tbon3416@gmail.com

Lisa Dufresne – Secretary - Dufresne.lisa@gmail.com

Scott Stantial – sstantial@hotmail.com

Riley King – rileyking12@gmail.com

Michael Maccannell – maccannell1@verizon.net

Present: Tyler Boutwell, Lisa Dufresne, Michael MacCannell

Agenda:

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting began at 7:07 PM in the GBW building in the downstairs conference room where the Selectman typically meet.

2. Greetings and Introductions

No audience members were present at the meeting opening.

3. Review current contract with Atlantic Broadband

Push to next meeting when more committee members are here.

4. Old items for review – did not review

Scott will reach out to Rep. Roy to find out how we can help support the bill. Perhaps written comments would be accepted so more people can get involved.

Lisa will call Consolidated Communications to find out what part of Deerfield has them, how many customers, etc.

5. Discussion of new findings

Tyler had a meeting with John on Sept. 17 to gather information. Discussed that there is no map of who in town has coax versus fiber. The town was given 465k from a rescue plan that can be used for communication. Tyler mentioned that we should put an LED lit sign at the transfer station to provide a range of information to folks. The 465K is broken up into 2 payments every six months. Have until the end of 2024 to use the funds. The town already got the first payment. John asked the committee to look into signs and prices, like the one at the Candia middle school. Michael has asked for two quotes for those kinds of signs. The sign can be used for all town departments. We need a proposal to buy it.

The money we have access to will also be used to map the town for line speeds and then we will pay someone to write the request for more money to upgrade the line. The state will prioritize who gets this money based on the speeds of the internet that each town has so that the most needy will get the money first. So federal money is available, but we need to apply to the state first because the state will be prioritizing which towns need the money and that prioritization could help us get federal money.

Pay for the sign to tell folks what is going on.
Pay to

Coalition with ten towns with ABB looking for better solutions. So John is working with those towns, that have ABB contracts town, to figure out what to do because everyone's contract ends around the same time. John would like us to work with that group to provide information to those towns.

New contract can't demand things be done, but it can condition it and we can say what we need and if they can't provide it, we will look elsewhere.

ABB sees no reason to bring fiber to the town because the infrastructure will cost too much.

Even with a grant we'd have to pay 15 or 30% of the cost of the fiber install.

One problem John ran into was that he sent out a letter asking the town to submit any complaints to the town to make a list so we can go back to ABB. Got little response and this is a great opportunity to put on an electric digital signboard at the dump. Too bad because we all now how bad the service is. Ideally we could get that digital sign in at the transfer station by winter.

Mike

A rep from consolidated communications expressed interest in speaking to the town about switching to that company.

25/2 – will need worse speed, likely, to get grant money.

There is a map of what cable company owns what lines in NH. We might be able to see that, and it's likely that part of Deerfield got consolidated because of the way the road works.

State of nh has office, takes towns, gather, rank them and rate their need for internet improvement.

Outstanding questions: quote threshold below which we need to send it out to bid. Ask John Harrington what that is.

See if it's the same for the signs. So we can get the ball rolling with a bid process for the things that need it.

Mike will ask the consolidated guy to come to our next meeting.

6. Closing questions or comments

Tyler: stepping down as Chair, got a promotion and the new job has many black out dates for work.

Michael nominates Scott Stantial as chair, Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Plan future committee meeting

Next meeting will be Thursday, xxx PM in the selectman's conference room. Will coordinate next meeting via email, after we find out the availability of the consolidated guy

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Dufresne