

## Winchester Broadband Committee Minutes 6/21/2021

**Members Present:** Nat Quevado; Leonard Picard; Nichole Pelkey; Larry Wood

Natalie called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

### **Old Business:**

Minutes – Leonard Picard made a motion to approve minutes from 5/17. Nichole seconds. All are in favor.

Natalie would like a subcommittee formed. We need to know the median price of all houses in Winchester. How will adding broadband to houses without it increase the value?

Leonard volunteers for the subcommittee – should be able to get this information from Avatar. Nichole will join that committee.

RFP's & Mapping -need to go through mapping & extend blocks for future development – Natalie asking for July 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to be mandatory, and it will be a longer meeting. Natalie will sit with Jenn for a few hours to go through mapping & update map to expand it. Our plan is to review and issue another RFP with Consolidated information.

How did we do the original map? We used the online mapping tool provided by providers.

Homework – overlay the map with google earth – any roads we know of that will be developed further within the next 25-30 years.

Another subcommittee is needed. Monadnock Broadband implementation guide is on Southwest Regional Planning website – within that guide they have broadband development strategy. We never did this – it is a step by step guide with bullet points of tax implementation for towns. We should outline the benefits, any other competing companies, who is going to own it? There are several models. We originally said we would follow the Chesterfield model, but there are so many options we need to choose what is best for Winchester.

SB85 passed the house and senate to develop block grant for broadband. It's a placeholder for NH to take advantage of grants. NTI (National Telecommunications Infrastructure) grant is available. The grants are between \$5 million and \$30 million that does not require matching. It was released last week and application is due in August. We need to partner with another town to apply for a combined grant – Winchester probably needs between \$2.5 and \$3 million, so we need to partner to meet the minimum. Todd from SWRP said Swanzey is interested, but they are served by Spectrum. If Consolidated is willing to work with towns in separate places, then the town we partner with does not have to be neighboring.

ARPA (American Rescue Plan) awarded Winchester 2 payments of \$200k which can be allocated to broadband. Natalie will talk to James Rokes and ask if some of these funds can be set aside for broadband infrastructure.

Natalie will work with Todd & Consolidated to figure out if there are other towns we can partner with. We need to stay on top of other grants when they come out.

Next meeting 7:30 July 5<sup>th</sup>

July 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm will be mandatory for committee members

New Business – Natalie will send the implementation guide to Nichole & Larry – Jenn will post this in a shared drive

Nichole made motion to adjourn. Leonard seconds. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.