

Town of Readsboro, Vermont
Broadband & Cell Committee
Regular Meeting
February 17, 2016

Present: Omar Smith, Robert Marechal, Rebecca Stone – Broadband & Cell Committee members

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda Additions/Deletions

None

New Business & Communications

A) Introductions

Introductions not done since only members of the Broadband & Cell Committee (BCC) were present.

B) Objectives

BCC members indicated that the objectives of the BCC are to reach out to providers in order to obtain broadband, hi-speed internet, and cell service for all Readsboro residents.

C) Next Steps

Letter received from Tom Veto indicating his interest in serving on the BCC. Current members felt that the 3-member committee is adequate, but if in the future the needs of the committee change, they will reach out to anyone who has expressed an interest in serving and bring their names to the attention of the Selectboard since the Selectboard makes the appointments. It was noted that Rhonda Eilers Smith was interested in assisting the efforts of the BCC as well.

Discussed the different types of connection services in Readsboro and the providers. It was decided that Bob will reach out to Fairpoint, Sovernet, and VTel in order to establish a coordinated meeting with the providers. Officials from the Department of Public Safety and area legislators will be asked to join the meeting. BCC has points of contact for Fairpoint and VTel. Omar plans to reach out to town of Stamford. Becky will obtain information for Sovernet and forward to Bob. Discussed Readsboro hosting a future meeting of town officials from Halifax, Searsburg, Stamford, and Whitingham as related to broadband/cell service.

At a recently held Selectboard meeting with residents, legislators and a Department of Public Service official, a map outlining broadband service was presented by DPS. During that meeting officials and attendees indicated that the map was inaccurate. In an effort to update the mapping, Becky suggested the BCC create a questionnaire that could be given to residents at the upcoming town meeting to find out what type of connections they currently have, identify their address, and who their providers are. Becky will prepare a draft for the next BCC meeting and obtain a large road map of Readsboro to assist in the mapping updates.

D) Establish Meeting Schedule

BCC members indicated the need to hold weekly meetings. Next meeting will be held on February 24th at 5:00 p.m.

Becky indicated that the BCC needs to elect a Chair. Becky made a motion to nominate Bob as Chair. Omar seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business

None

Hearing of Visitors

None

Adjournment

Becky made motion to adjourn at 6:01 p.m. Omar seconded. Unanimous. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Stone, Member
Broadband & Cell Committee