

TOWN OF WILBRAHAM
240 Springfield Street
Wilbraham, Massachusetts 01095

Tom Newton
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**BROADBAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, January 26, 2023, 6:00 pm - Remote Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Members present are Tom Newton, John Boudreau, Biff Simpson, Mat Nelson and Felix Zayas
Not Present:

Also Present: Select Person Sue Bunnell, Jeff Christensen of EntryPoint Networks, and Town Manager Nick Breault

I. New Business

Minutes of the 1/12/2023 meeting were approved as amended. John B. made the motion to approve, Bif S. seconded it, A roll was called: John B. approve, Bif S. approve, Felix Z. approve, Mat N. approve, Tom N. approve.

Entry Point Networks

- Jeff C. went through a summary of a Pew study on the history of the cable industry consolidation and how it could relate to fiber industry.
 - Consolidation could be seen in the fiber business.
 - Blackrock is investing in the industry.
 - Local fiber ownership could be an impediment to consolidation.
 - A discussion of a possible cooperative relationship with East Longmeadow took place. Ownership of the infrastructure and governance would be affected. We will be proceeding on our own.

II. Old Business

Governmental Update

- Digital Equity Grant
 - The 1/26/2023 updated draft grant application was reviewed.
 - Final draft will be available for the next meeting.
 - Jeff C. provided an update on funding through MBI and on the selection of a consultant to assist.

- OPM RFP Process Update:
 - Draft RFP was reviewed.
 - Motion to approve the OPM RFQ was made by John B. and seconded by Mat N. A roll was called: John B. approve, Bif S. approve, Felix Z. approve, Mat N. approve, Tom N. approve.
- Nick B to have Town Counsel attend the next meeting to discuss legal issues. Committee members were requested to submit legal questions for Town Counsel to Nick in advance of the meeting.
- Nick B. advised the committee that Massachusetts Open Meeting rules are set to expire on 3/31/2023 which will require all meetings to be in person. There is the potential that this rule change may be postponed.

Massachusetts Broadband Coalition of municipalities in the state held their first meeting on 1/24/2023.

- Tom N. represented Wilbraham.
- Future meeting will be held online on the first Tuesday of each month.
- One other committee member can attend. Members are to coordinate with Tom N. if they wish to attend.

Official Document Repository was reviewed and will be followed up on.

Marketing and Public Relation:

- Public / Media Outreach: the 5/15/2023 Town Meeting is the next opportunity.
 - All committee members were requested to attend.
- Swag / Promotional Items list was reviewed.
 - Initial order was reviewed.
 - Members are to review the list along with its links and respond to Tom N with comments and 5-6 priority items in advance of the 2/8/2023 meeting.
 - Mat to update the list with a swag bag added.
- Brochure draft was reviewed.
 - Tom to email a pdf to members.
 - Sue B. offered to have an editor review it.

Website Update - WilbrahamFiber.com:

- Blog page is live.
- Members are to review John B's 2nd draft blog post.

Committee Site Page on Wilbraham-ma.gov

- Tom reviewed access to the website for Broadband updates with Town IT.
- Tom N and Biff S are to meet with Wilbraham IT

Other Business

- Verizon has approached Minnechaug about providing high speed fiber..

III. Citizen's Open Forum

- No citizens were present at this point in the meeting.

Dates for the next meeting will be virtual on Wednesday 2/8/2022 at 6:00 PM
Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:01 P.M.
Submitted: John Boudreau – Committee. Member Date:1/30/2023