

Broadband Minutes 4/3 Approved 5/10/23

The meeting was called to order at 4:09.

Present were Don Maki, Ed Fitzgerald, Ryan Quimby, Nick Jorge and Tom Christensen.

Don Maki asked Tom Christensen to provide an update on the status of a potential agreement with Westfield Gas and Electric for development of a fiber project in East Longmeadow.

Conor O'Shea joined the meeting just as Tom was explaining that everything at this point is contingent on the MLP Ballot vote scheduled for the June Town Election.

The discussion focused on the need to disseminate information relative to the vote, with the limitation that, as public officials, committee members are prohibited from advocating for or against the ballot question, but rather must provide neutral factual information only.

The members discussed several avenues to reach the public with that information: ELCAT's cable and Youtube channels; one or more podcasts to explain the MLP process; a possible presentation to group/groups at the senior center; a page on the town website; possible attendance at upcoming civic or cultural events; including the ballot question in Reminder's coverage of the Council and School Committee races on the ballot.

Don agreed to work with Ryan to prepare some information for a one-page sheet to post online and possibly hand out at events.

Don noted a concern about clarifying for residents with cable television that a municipal fiber network will provide internet service, but will not replace cable television service from other incumbent providers.

Tom also noted that the Town has already notified National Grid and Verizon of its desire to submit pole applications for network space.

The committee planned to meet again on May 8 at 4:00 pm at the ELCAT Studio.

The committee voted unanimously to adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Submitted by Don Maki