

6-2-2021 Meeting Minutes of the Alburgh Broadband Advisory Committee

1. Meeting called to order at 6:10pm
2. In attendance:
 - a. In-person (Bingo Hall)... R.J. Cox (committee member), Lee Kimball (Alburgh Selectboard), Elliot Knight (committee member), Ron Kumetz (committee member), and Ken Millman (committee member).
 - b. Online (via zoom)...the internet was down, so there were no online attendees.
3. Ken Millman elected chair, and Elliot Knight elected vice chair.
4. Discussion on housing and powering of network electronics. Preliminary criteria provided by Matrix is: about 10' by 12' of space, a back-up power generator, secure location that can be locked but still have 24x7 access, and above the flood plain. Several housing locations were discussed, including carving out a corner in the Bingo Hall; converting "Bing's Room," the utility area connected to the Bingo Hall and Town Office; and a free-standing shelter on a pad adjacent to the Bingo Hall. Conesus pick is to renovate the utility room. This matter needs to be presented to the Fire Department's Executive Board, and then approved by the Fire Department membership. If this location is the selected and approved location, this committee will recommend that the Town work with the Fire Department's auxiliary to relocate items currently stored in this space. This Committee will also ask Chris Lynch of Matrix to provide more specific details re the power requirements, and also about what Matrix does re a fire suppression system and rodent control.
5. Discussion on MOU between Matrix and the Town. This Committee will ask Matrix: a) If subscribers qualifying for the "Disadvantaged Student tier" (FRL-Free & Reduced Lunch) of 25 Mbps for \$45 per month who sign-up during the pre-subscription period count towards the 460 subscribers required during the subscription period for Matrix to begin construction; b) to consider formalizing a flat-rate "Seasonal Package" and if there is some way to avoid the subscribers losing their telephone number if VOIP service is seasonal; and c) can Matrix offer a discounted pre-subscription package to get things started, and that the installation fees be amortized over a longer period.
6. Discussion on inviting Consolidated and Comcast to share their plans (if any) for building out a town-wide fiber network in Alburgh, with this Committee. This Committee will extend invitations via email to Dan Glanville (Comcast) and Jeffrey Austin (Consolidated).
7. Future discussion topics will include exploring funding via grants (ARPA/VT, H360/VT, NTIA/Fed, and loans (VEDA, Municipal Lease, Bond Issue).
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm

Submitted by Ken Millman, Chair, Alburgh Broadband Advisory Committee (ABAC)

Note: the above minutes have not been approved. Approval or changes to the minutes will be addressed at the next regular meeting of the ABAC, date TBD.

DRAFT