

6-16-2021 Meeting Minutes of the Alburgh Broadband Advisory Committee

1. Meeting called to order at 6:10pm
2. In attendance:
In-person (Muni Office Conference Room)... Danielle James Choiniere (Assistant Town Clerk/Assistant Town Treasurer), R.J. Cox (committee member), (committee member), Elliot Knight (committee vice-chair), and Ron Kumetz (committee member).
Online (via zoom)...Rob Fish (VT Department of Public Service), Dan Glanville (VP Government/Regulatory Affairs & Community Impact—Comcast), Ken Millman (committee chair), and Clay Purvis (VT Department of Public Service).
3. Motion to approve 6/2/2021 meeting minutes—Elliot Knight. Seconded—Ron Kumetz. Passed—unanimous.
4. Presentation by Daniel Glanville, Comcast
 - a. Dan provided a brief history of Comcast's history in Vermont, and a summary of products and services.
 - b. Dan stated that Comcast would like to apply for an NTIA grant in partnership with Alburgh and Isle La Motte, which, if awarded, could cover the estimated \$8-9 million cost of building out a Towns-wide (Alburgh and ILM) broadband network. The network will feature DOCSIS 3.1 technology, and will work over its existing HFC network, providing speeds of 100 Mbps up and 20 Mbps down.
 - c. The Committee asked :
 - i. If the network is fiber or a fiber-coaxial hybrid, and Dan said he will check with Engineering to determine the specific network architecture.
 - ii. About back-up power issues (battery and generators), and Dan said battery back-up is provided, and generators can be dispatched if required.
 - iii. About pricing packages. Some pricing examples were provided, and Dan will send more detailed subscriber rates and packages information.
 - iv. About Comcast's position on Net Neutrality, and Dan will provide.
 - d. The deadline for the grant application is mid-August, and decisions are expected in November. Once approved, Comcast is required to begin network buildout within one year (extensions may be required), and subscribers can be connected on a rolling basis.
 - e. The Committee is aware of the NTIA grant, and will research it further to try and determine criteria, rules, etc.
 - f. Dan (Comcast) will present/meet with the SB, at the SB's request, to further discuss.
5. Brian Barbour needed to resign from the Broadband Committee for health reasons. The Committee unanimously agreed to carry on with four members, and will consider recommending a fifth member be appointed by the Selectboard should a willing and capable individual be identified.
6. The Committee requested that a Broadband Advisory Committee section be added to the Town's website (alburghvt.org), and Danielle offered to pursue this.

7. At this point in the process, the Committee is pausing future meetings until after the Selectboard sends Matrix their feedback on the MOU, incorporating this Committee's notes, and the town attorney's (David Rugh) comments and changes. The Committee will formally meet next to review and discuss Matrix's responses to the SB's notes.
8. Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm

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