



## MINUTES OF THE BROADBAND COMMITTEE Thursday, February 21, 2019

**In attendance: Bob Tourville, Nate DeLong, Tom Newton, Tony Colapietro,  
Christine Goonan**  
**Meeting called to order at 710pm.**

### **I. Orientation - Bob**

Bob opened the meeting with a role call. Each member introduced themselves and mentioned a concern they have in relation to Broadband.

Some concerns mentioned:

1. Net Neutrality
2. School Tests being taken online – issues with bandwidth
3. Residential Fiber
4. Municipal Fiber and which municipal buildings currently utilize Fiber:
  - a. Public Safety buildings, IT building (old PD), Town Hall, Fire Station 2 and Minnechaug

### **II. Broadband Update - Nate**

Nate shared with the committee where the previous Broadband committee left off with a number of topics.

Tom also had information about where the committee stands due to his membership in the previous Broadband committee. It was disclosed that the Municipal Light Plant fiber build-out for Fire HQ, Ridge Road Comm Towers, Station 2 and a splice point at Monson Road cost the town \$142k a few years ago.

Nate mentioned the concept of the Dig Once policy for all utility work done in town. The laying of conduit when road work is being performed allows for flexibility and future expansion of the municipal infrastructure. In 2017, the Town Administrator acquired a Community Compact Grant for \$20k. This grant is intended to be used for a feasibility study into completing the fiber infrastructure in Wilbraham including for municipal, commercial and residential use.

The committee plans to reach out to Westfield Whip City Fiber and Holyoke G&E to invite a representative from each entity to speak with the Committee about the study and what that can offer Wilbraham in the near future. It was disclosed that the town has until June 30, 2019 to utilize these funds. The committee voted unanimously to have Nate begin the steps to have that deadline extended 6 months.

### **III. Next meeting Date and Agenda**

**Committee unanimously voted on 2 upcoming meeting dates 2/26/19 and 2/28/19 @ 715pm in Conf Rm 1. Committee will vote on officers and create a Mission Statement.**

**IV. Citizen's Open Forum**

There was no one present to take advantage of the open forum.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 815pm. The Committee will reconvene at its next scheduled meeting on 2/26/19.

Submitted:

Chris Bovino – Committee Member

Date :2/25/19

Approved as to form and content:

Chris Bovino – Committee Member

Date: 2/25/19