
STC Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee was held at Mallory Town Hall on September 7, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM.

Attendees included First Selectman Don Lowe [DL], Gail Maletz [GM], Steve Maletz [SM], Terri Hahn [TH], and Al Zeisler [AZ].

Absent was Zoe Sochor (ZS). SM served as Secretary in her absence.

Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2018 STC meeting was made by DL and seconded by TH and approved unanimously with the following edit at the request of AZ:

ACTIONS:

(Edit requested by AZ)

- ~~DL could contact Eversource with CF regarding their progress/easement and check whether installation would be included (like residential where cost is made up by rates).~~
DL and/or CF could contact Eversource regarding their progress on the easement, and ascertain how any related power line installation cost will be handled. It is assumed that it is to be part of their regulatory base unless notified otherwise.

Correspondence/Public Comment

- Email from Chris Fuchs updated the status of Emergency Equipment (Repeater System) installation on the Aquarion water tower on Big Trail extension as well as SVFD's transition from the traditional AT&T cellular network to the newly created Firstnet cellular and data network developed for exclusive use by first responders. AZ asked if First Selectman's office and Sherman School would also be connected to FirstNet.

ACTION: GM will contact CF to request that he continue to provide updates to the STC and to ask about FirstNet inclusion.

Old Business

A. Emergency equipment installation:

- Still awaiting lease exhibit drawings from structural engineer for Aquarion's review and approval and Eversource power installation plans
- Majority of project quotes have been received; CF plans to present full report and cost at September BoS meeting
- DL still working on the necessary easement with Aldo Pascarella (AP)

The following actions were tabled until the October meeting:

ACTIONS:

- **CF** to inquire on a separate emergency frequency for civilian emergency – monitored by a dispatcher.
- **DL** to contact Frontier to ask whether emergency phones can be installed on telephone poles in the areas where there is no cell service.

B. T-Mobile lease at Happy Acres Farm: DL reported that the lease and addendum were signed by all parties and were delivered personally to Dan Reid. Construction can now proceed.

C. Possible sites for cell tower in south end: DL to meet with AP and Harry Carey of AT&T on 9/11/18. Two sites previously considered (Berger property on Coote Hill and Timber Trails property at top of Long Meadow) are back under discussion.

ACTION: TH to investigate Coote Hill road ownership.

D. Cell carriers' plans for Sherman: see items B and C above; no further word from Verizon.

E. Cell carriers and tower construction contact list: was compiled and distributed by GM.

F. Update – Communication with Felicia Jones (FJ) of NWConneCT: DL reported no additional contact. He questioned whether there is anything actionable that this committee can/should do with regard to NWConneCT at this time. GM stated that she feels that the STC should maintain focus on obtaining reliable cell service throughout Sherman, specifically getting a tower constructed in the south end and having the major carriers locate on all towers for service that is as seamless as possible.

ACTION: TH to follow up with FJ.

New Business

A. Sherman's Charter/Spectrum representative: Frank Copsidas (FC) is our new representative, replacing George Linkletter who previously served in this capacity. DL expects that FC will report periodically at BoS meetings. It was agreed that FC could be invited to meet with the STC when he has settled into the position and has information to share.

B. Text to 911 in CT: GM distributed a press release regarding this new initiative. Intended primarily for those who are deaf or have a speech disability, it also allows residents to send a text message from a cell phone in emergency situations when it is impractical to make a phone call (e.g. home invasion, incident of domestic violence, active mass shooting.) This availability will be valuable in areas with limited cell service when a call will not complete but a text will. The slogan is "Call When You Can; Text When You Can't." Ideas discussed for disseminating the information included the Town Hall bulletin board, churches, Senior Center, and possibly nixle.

ACTION: DL will include the Text to 911 information when he next meets with all emergency services personnel.

C. Impact of Route 37 closure: TH expressed the opinion that the closure serves as another example of a situation in which reliable cell service is necessary for public safety. GM agreed that keeping the issue in the public eye is a good idea.

ACTION: TH to contact ZS to collaborate on a letter to the editor

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 PM.

Next meeting: Friday, October 5, 2018, 11:00 am, Mallory Town Hall