
STC Meeting Minutes – April 6, 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee was held at Mallory Town Hall on April 6, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM.

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

Member not in attendance: Steve Maletz [SM].

Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2018 STC meeting was made by DL and seconded by TH. Unanimously approved as distributed.

Correspondence/Public Comment

- Discussion with Felicia Jones, Project Manager of Northwest ConneCT
 - o Introduction
 - Felicia Jones background: public health and healthcare industry, including start-ups
 - Overview PowerPoint presentation of Northwest ConneCT's "Community Campaign"
 - Goal is to educate 25 towns in NW CT, including Sherman, about the economic, community and individual benefits of fiber optics in advance of voting for tax subsidized infrastructure project and service. Many towns have a budget line item for Community Development/Economic Development.
 - Technical plan – Fiber optics infrastructure first, then digital array systems (DAS) to sit on top of phone systems (poles) for cell and internet service. From website: *The network would connect users to telephone, television, Internet, and auxiliary services, with Internet speeds up to (and later above) 1 gbps, in both directions.*
 - See further information and timeline, and sign up for the newsletter at: <http://northwest-connect.org>
 - o Open discussion
 - STC members signed up for upcoming newsletter

- NW ConneCT looking for lawyers, fundraisers to add to board

Old Business

- **Status of T-Mobile lease at Happy Acres Farm:** DL reported that farmers agreed that a one-time payment by T-Mobile will be made to Friends of Happy Acres; this is in addition to an initial bonus and monthly lease payments to the town. An April 7 BoS special meeting was planned to discuss the agreement.
- **STC information posted on Town website and in Town Hall:** GM reported that STC has its own page on the Sherman Town website under Community/Community Organizations (http://www.townofshermanct.org/community/community_organizations/sherman_telecommunications_committee.php) where agenda and minutes are posted. STC meetings and agendas are also posted on calendar and 24 hours in advance in hard copy on the Town Hall bulletin board. Vacancy on STC is included on Town website in *Jobs and Volunteering* section.
- **Update on T-Mobile installation at Tower Hill:** GM reported that T-Mobile began broadcasting on Friday March 31. Signal strength is minimal to good. Any feedback on service/signal strength, please forward to GM.
- **Updates from CT Siting Council, Homeland Towers, and John Hodge:** TH reported that John Hodge is no longer involved in New Fairfield communication issues; Ray Vergati of Homeland Towers is currently in negotiations for a site off Chapel Hill; DL sent a formal request to Melanie Bachman of the CT Siting Council for a new "Coverage Assessment Map" – note that coverage coming from New York State may not be on this map.
 - **Action:** DL to reach out to NF first selectman to ask Siting Council for this information as well to gain the bigger picture of contiguous coverage.
- **Status of Sherman emergency equipment installations at East Mountain and Tower Hill sites:** DL reported that he met with Chris Fuchs, East Mountain is up and running and Tower Hill is still being negotiated.
 - **Action:** DL will contact Dan Rosemark (New Fairfield) regarding status of lease for emergency equipment installation at Tower Hill.
- **Update on carriers' future plans for Sherman:** No update.

New Business

- Committee members' reports on Verizon and T-Mobile signal strength and coverage from Tower Hill site: GM reported 1-2 bars on T-Mobile on roads but no service in house; ZS 1-2 bars and TH service through Durgy Lane on Verizon.
- Mapping cell phone signal strength throughout Town: GM and AZ suggested using the following sites/apps to help map signal strength: Opensignal.com; Cellmapper.net; Sensorly.com. AZ shared information about determining signal strength in decibels.
- Consider inviting representative of BOE and/or PTA to join STC: Further discussion is necessary.

- Consider inviting representative of Emergency Services to meet with STC: Further discussion is necessary.
 - o **Action:** GM will contact Sherman Volunteer Fire Department to request that a representative attend next meeting of STC.
- Discuss use of Facebook page: Further discussion is necessary
- Determine point of contact for press: Further discussion is necessary
- Other items suggested by members of the Committee: None.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.
- Next meeting: Friday, May 4, 2018, 3:00 pm, Mallory Town Hall