
STC Meeting Minutes – January 11, 2019

Call to order

A meeting of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee was called to order at 11:06 AM at Mallory Town Hall on January 11, 2019.

Attendees included Committee members First Selectman Don Lowe [DL], Gail Maletz [GM], Steve Maletz [SM], Al Zeisler [AZ], and Terri Hahn [TH]. Absent was Zoe Sochor [ZS]; SM served as Secretary in her absence. Also in attendance was Chris Fuchs of the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department [CF].

Approval of minutes and 2019 meeting dates

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2018 STC meeting was made by DL and seconded by SM; approved unanimously. (Note: The December 2018 meeting was canceled.)

2019 Meeting dates were distributed by GM (previously approved by all members.)

Correspondence/Public Comment

None

Old Business

1. Status of emergency equipment installation (CF)

Funding and the lease agreement between the Town and Aquarion were approved at Town Meeting on November 17, 2018.

P&Z approved application on January 3, 2019 with sole condition that generator placement meets setback requirements. All town approvals are complete.

Permits can be pulled on January 25, 2019.

Beatty Construction is the contractor for the installation.

Still need to get Timber Trails Associates (TTA) to sign easement so that Eversource can run power to the site. Once the easement is received, equipment can be ordered and construction can proceed. There is time sensitivity since funding request was based on quotes with time limits.

o ACTION - DL will contact Aldo Pascarella and include Gerry Greenberg in the conversation to facilitate signing of easement by TTA.

AZ volunteered to delay Eversource work that is scheduled to be done on poles at his house if this could accelerate the emergency equipment installation.

2. Status of possible cell tower sites

GM read email from Ray Vergati (RV) of Homeland Towers (HT). Once it became clear that TTA was not interested in leasing their land for a tower site, HT entered into negotiations with a private landowner and expects to have a final decision by the end of January. If the landowner agrees to enter into a lease agreement, HT will proceed with preparations for a filing with the CT Siting Council. If this landowner does not choose to proceed, HT will keep up their efforts in looking for a suitable site with landlord interest.

o ACTION - GM will maintain contact with RV for status updates.

3. Status of T-Mobile installation at Happy Acres

GM read update email from Dan Reid (DR): Construction began in November 2018. Goal is to have construction complete by the end of March 2019 and T-Mobile hopes to be broadcasting from there by mid April 2019.

o **ACTION** - GM will maintain contact with DR for status updates.

4. Update on NWConneCT

TH reported that specific data on roads in the 26 member towns that lack reliable cell service is being collected to present to CSC.

A detailed message was received from Jessica Fowler, Town of Sharon Selectman regarding legislative, legal, and financial issues related to the NWConneCT initiative.

Rosemary O'Brien is primary NWConneCT contact.

o **ACTION** - TH will maintain contact with NWConneCT for status updates.

AZ suggested that perhaps NWConneCT could request the State government's support for the installation of emergency call boxes by telecommunications carriers on state roads that lack cell service for a distance of (TBD).

DL suggested that interested committee members consider attending the next WestCOG meeting (12:30 PM on January 17 at Ridgefield VNA.) Jessica Fowler will attend to meet with First Selectmen of several of the NWConneCT member towns.

o **ACTION** - AZ will try to attend 1/17/19 WestCOG meeting.

TH suggested that our representative to Charter Spectrum could inquire about ownership of the poles and whether emergency call boxes could be installed.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 AM.

Next meeting: Friday, February 8, 2019, 11:00 am, Mallory Town Hall