
STC Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee was held at Mallory Town Hall on August 3, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM.

Attendees included First Selectman Don Lowe [DL], Gail Maletz [GM], Steve Maletz [SM], Terri Hahn [TH], Zoe Sochor [ZS], Al Zeisler [AZ], and guest Chris Fuchs (CF), a captain with the Sherman Volunteer Fire Department (SVFD).

All members were in attendance.

Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2018 STC meeting was made by GM and seconded by SM and approved unanimously with the following changes:

- The CF/DL meetings with New Fairfield, referenced at the June 28 Board of Selectmen meeting and recounted in this committee's July 6 meeting, included Dan Rosemark and NF First Selectman Pat Delmonico (by phone only).
- CF clarified comments made about the same meeting:
 - o "There still would be some dead zones in Sherman" with emergency equipment located at the water tower on Big Trail Extension should be understood as "pockets of areas" that would lose coverage – "not quite dead zones."
 - o Emergency equipment should be understood as fire, ambulance, and public works.

Correspondence/Public Comment

- Letter to editor, The Town Tribune, printed July 12, 2018.
- Link to this committee's facebook page is now on the Sherman Town website.

Old Business

- A. **Emergency equipment installations:** CF reported he is confident on progress. Items underway:
 - o CENTEK Engineering of Branford, CT is to provide an exhibit drawing by the end of next week (Aug. 10).

- Tank manufacturer to provide cost of mounting brackets and installation.
 - Electrician and Eversource in discussion about running lines above ground or underground. Noted that it is better underground, but more costly. Need to finalize easement to run power to the site.
 - Propane company determining size of tank to run generator; fuel monitoring system included
- Overall, cost estimated probably in the range of 40-50K vs. original 30K estimate. Eversource alone is 10K.
 - Once Aquarion's approval is secured, CF will come to a Board of Selectmen meeting and ask for capital expenditure. Currently, CF is still gathering quotes.
 - Timeline estimate: Up and running in four to six months. Will have to go before Sherman Planning & Zoning, depending on their concerns with disclosure. Noted: Emergency communications is for the good of the town, so it is expected that P&Z will ok it.

ACTIONS:

- 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), as requested by AZ.
 - CF to inform STC members when P&Z meeting is so that members could attend
- Coverage would be for 39 and 37 south up to the center of town. AZ asked whether the system would provide for communications to be put on school buses. CF responded technically yes, but infrastructure on buses and tower would have to be upgraded.
 - Discussion regarding the possibility of call boxes for emergency phone calls along 37 and 39 for stranded motorists. Currently emergencies are on a frequency that is monitored by a dispatcher and relayed between Southbury, Torrington and Sherman. It may be more plausible to have a call box located on a phone pole and go through Frontier.

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.
- SM asked how SVFD knows the equipment on the tower is effective. CF responded: A temporary repeater is put on the tower and tested in current dead zones.
- B. Status of T-Mobile lease at Happy Acres Farm:** DL reported that a draft of lease and addendum had been approved by the town and is waiting on T-Mobile's legal for review and Happy Acres Farm.
- Next step: bring a motion to the town to allow the town to enter into the agreement. The arrangement will bring \$26,000 to the town.
- C. Update – Homeland Towers/Ray Vergati & Aldo Pascarella (DL).** DL reported no progress on arranging a meeting.
- D. Update – AT&T's plans for Sherman.** DL reported that both AT&T and Verizon have expressed interested in Homeland builds, but no news on cell carrier plans.

ACTIONS:

- DL to email GM contacts
- E. Update – Communication with Felicia Jones of NWConnect.** TH reported no response from NWC regarding RFP status. DL reported that FJ did not want to present during a Board of Selectmen meeting.
- Note: Subsequent to this meeting, AZ suggested that FJ present at the Jewish Community Center.

ACTION: DL to follow up with her regarding plans.

New Business

- A. Emergency services at Sherman School** – AZ reported that he was told there was no report to review. DL and CF assured there is one, but for security reasons, the plans are on a need to know basis, and cell service will not be dropped for emergency personnel.
- B. Tower relay station (AZ).** No discussion.
- C. Items suggested by members of the Committee** – No items.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 PM. Next meeting: Friday, September 7, 2018 at 11:00 am, Mallory Town Hall