
Town of Fairhaven Broadband Study Committee

Date: June 7, 2021, 5:00 p.m. E.T.

Remote Access Information:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93992099677?pwd=TU52MXQ3YXJECmNEUT09>

or call 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 939 9209 9677

Passcode: 267034

Mr. Powers opened the meeting at 5:09p.m., and advised it was a recorded meeting via zoom.

Fairhaven Staff Appointee:

- Derek Frates

Committee Members:

- 1 . Bob Espindola
- 2 . Sean Powers
- 3 . Cathy Melanson
- 4 . Alyssa Botelho
- 5 . Devin Cox, EntryPoint
- 6 . Jeff Christensen, EntryPoint

Present: Mr. Powers, Alyssa Botelho, Mr. Espindola

Absent: Cathy Melanson

From EntryPoint, Mr. Cox and Mr. Christensen were present.

Agenda Items:

Review/ Approve Minutes from prior meeting (Sean) - Mr. Powers made a motion to approve the minutes of April 29, 2021 and was seconded by Bob Espindola. The motion passed unanimously.

Introduce Bruce Patterson (Recently Joined EntryPoint) - Mr. Christensen introduced Bruce Patterson. Mr. Patterson reviewed his affiliation with the City of Ammon, Idaho. Working with EntryPoint.

The Committee introduced themselves to Mr. Patterson.

Update on Town Meeting & Article #34 (Bob & Jeff) - Mr. Christensen stated they would be available for both the Wednesday meeting as well as Saturday's Town Meeting.

Mr. Espindola stated that he knows there are people that are not in favor of the project and haven't been from the beginning. He said that the people he has been in contact with really want more information and firm pricing. He said he thinks the signs are doing what they should be doing and generating conversation about the project. He said it's hard to say either way.

Jeff asked if people against it are Town Meeting members or just residents.

Mr. Espindola stated the two that have reached out to him our Town Meeting members who stated they were going to speak against it at Town Meeting.

Mr. Powers stated he received a call from FUN 107 and he had a conversation with them and Mr. Espindola said he saw something on the WBSM website where Mr. Powers was quoted.

Mr. Christensen asked about how town meeting would work when spoken for or against an article.

Mr. Espindola reviewed how that is typically done. He said he was not sure if this will be contentious or not. Mr. Espindola explained that the Selectboard are Town Meeting members with a validated vote.

Mr. Powers stated he is a Town Meeting member as well. He said he is prepared to speak on behalf of the project at Town Meeting.

Mr. Espindola stated they need to be clear to voting members if voted yes, only continuing the discussion and if voted no, then it's off the table for discussion.

Mr. Christensen recommended that people talk to their networks and identify people who may be for the project and ask them to speak on behalf of it at Town Meeting.

Update on Yard Sign Distribution (Devin & Derek): Yard signs have been distributed.

Create email to identify Fiber Champions to display and deliver Yard Signs (Derek & Sean):

Mr. Powers asked how they could include "fiber champions". Mr. Espindola suggested asking them if they felt comfortable to speak on behalf of the project at Town Meeting.

Can we email Town Meeting Members to educate them? (Bob) - Bob said he wasn't sure that they wanted to send email to TMM..he said that the town moderator will put out a summary to direct people to read more about the project versus a direct email - as that's how he's doing that with all warrants.

Mr. Frates stated that the video would be available for Town Meeting members to review and will still be available for people to review.

Schedule time to talk to marketing firm about presentation (Jeff): Mr. Christensen said that they have been in contact with two firms locally, and he proposes they should invite them to a future meeting to see how they would work with the budget. He said they could be more active this summer with community engaging opportunities if the vote this Saturday overwhelmingly passes.

Mr. Espindola stated he would like to see a focus on better pricing with the RFP. He said he thinks that people are looking for the hardcore numbers of cost; as well as how it will be operated. He said he would like to identify a model, third party or Town managed and focus on those areas to get information out to the townspeople.

Next Meeting Date? Mr. Christensen said that the next date and next steps would be, if they are successful, to gather the Marketing individuals in to do a presentation and the next steps to get the hard core information before the Town Meeting in the Fall.

Next Steps – Based on Success at Town Meeting

The Committee discussed a future meeting, date and time. Mr. Espindola suggested perhaps a meeting in June or mid-July. Mr. Christensen suggested Monday, June 21st. Mr. Frates stated there's a few meetings that night, and suggested Thursday, June 24, 2021. Mr. Powers requested a 7pm meeting. Ms. Botelho stated that she is starting a new job and not sure of her availability; she stated she has this job until July 23, 2021. Mr. Espindola suggested planning the meeting and then if she can attend she would. Mr. Powers suggested 7:30pm on June 24, 2021.

Mr. Christensen asked about Massachusetts and restrictions to meetings.

Mr. Espindola gave an overview that the mandate has been lifted, but you still have to wear a mask at Town Hall.

Mr. Christensen said he would be interested in setting up multiple meetings in the community in the near future, some in-person meetings in the community. He recommend yard signs and discussions with Town Meeting members. He said they would plan at next meeting how to meet with in-person meetings.

Mr. Espindola stated there are several improvement associations in Town that could serve as different avenue/venue's for in-person meetings facilitations.

Mr. Cox stated he sent out an email regarding the renewal of the website and he had a question about saving a little money to renew for two years versus one year.

Sean Powers made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Bob Espindola. The motion passed unanimously at 5:45p.m.

Here is the proposed warrant article wording for a municipal light plant / telecommunications facility-

“To see if the town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. C. 164 sec. 36 to acquire a municipal light plant and to authorize such plant to construct, purchase or lease, and maintain such facilities as may be necessary for the distribution or the operation of a telecommunications system for municipal use or for the use of its customers, pursuant to M.G.L. C.164 sec.47E, or as otherwise authorized by law, or to take any other action thereon.”

This article requires a two thirds vote, taken by ballot with the use of the voting list, at each of two town meetings called therefor and held at intervals of not less than two nor more than thirteen months.