

Broadband Study Committee
July 23, 2019

Present: Sean Powers, Robert Espindola and Jay Simmons.

Absent: John Methia and John Seed, Derek Frates

Mr. Espindola stated this was an informational Meeting only, and there would be no votes taken on anything.

Robert Espindola was discussing the letter that the Board of Selectman will write to the FCC regarding the use of telephone poles for broadband.

Ken Bell and Lee Him were present from Taunton Municipal Light to give a presentation/overview of the services that are currently available for internet, broadband service in Taunton.

They said they have been offering since 2007 and they first had to pay Eversource and Verizon or them to access the poles to find out if they were weak, and to get .

He discussed that it takes nearly a full year to get his fiber on the telephone poles and that sometimes they would allow temporary attachments to the poles.

A discussion ensued about the hardware.

Mr. Bell explained fiber optics with residential – ONT – inside of the home; built in Alexa and routing capabilities, and wi-fi for smart television. One device. (Calus) GPon is a standard hardware, and the other is a vendor based system. Usually a 2 hour install by a 3rd party; penetrates the 2nd fl of a residence.

Mr. Espindola asked about what is being provided currently.

Mr. Him said they currently offer two packages, 1 gig for \$70; 50 meg for \$35 and are also offering a very attractive phone service as well.

Mr. Bell spoke about Cape net – upstream dividers; diverse path with them – tier 2 carrier, fiber access – they act as secondary ISP for Boston (almost transport) – TML purchases the bulk & selling pieces to individual. They have several providers. Multiple cores, multiple carrier hotels, diverse paths.

If you're the local ISP, you are then passing the single to the residence.

ISP – take connection over cape net (town would be the ISP)-deliver to your core network, and then down to your resident.

Mr. Espindola explained Comcast in town did buyout for creating the loop in town and the core router is here at town hall.

Open cape has a cable right through Rt. 6 in Fairhaven. If we have that backbone ability, that would be the tie in point.

Phone service is \$20 for the line – voice over internet, comes out as an analog at the residence. (TML)
A lot of stream services, Hulu, youtube, netflix, antenna's.

The Committee also discussed other future technology possibly 5g and getting a feasibility study done in the future.

Mr. Bell stated that wireless is still wireless. As a consumer, all major PC's are wired – gaming consoles or cell phones, if they go down we still have the PC's wired. 5 g is awesome, going to be mobile – but what if you can't get a connection. Should be tandem, working together.

Small cell is also in their feasibility study.

Mr. Espindola asked if they see a change in the cost of fiber in emerging technology? The response was price of labor is what changes – fiber is cheap.

Mr. Powers asked how they started their program? Was there already a consultant on board?

Mr. Him said a pilot program was done in 2003, where 200 people were hooked up.

Mr. Bell said there was a huge push now, and their mapping system was done by a 3rd party; he recommended a survey could be done that way.

Update on consultant contractor:

Mr. Espindola said Mr. Rees had a discussion with Solarity, he was looking for more information from him to justify the uniqueness of it and their services – they will provide the RFP (for detailed engineer). Mr. Espindola stated he has completed that and now Mr. Rees will move forward. He also said the monies will come from the cable franchise fees. Potential next phase, engineering study to put monies aside for that purpose. He said that a Fall Town Meeting will happen in November, but they might be in a better position to secure some money in Fall vs. spring meeting.

Mr. Espindola reported that Brad Perkins sent in resignation as he felt it was not a direct fit for him. The Selectmen accepted the letter of resignation letter and now there is an open seat. He will discuss with Mark about that process.

Next meeting date: 4th Tuesday, August 27, 2019 at 7:00p.m.

Jay Simmons asked that we put these informational items on the next agenda.

Meeting was concluded at 8:05p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Patricia A. Pacella
Recording Secretary