

MINUTES
Town of New Marlborough Broadband Committee
Tuesday, August 9, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

1. The following Committee members were present:

Steve Klein
Richard Long
Michele Shalaby
Tom Stalker
Owen Wright

constituting all the members of the Committee; whereupon, Mr. Long called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Minutes of the August 2, 2016 meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Mr. Long reported on a meeting attended in Boston with senior officials from MBI, the Department of Telecommunications and the Governor's Office. Ms. Shalaby also attended via telephone. Many topics were discussed related to proceeding toward a turnkey broadband internet access solution for New Marlborough. There was a quick briefing on MBI's earlier meeting with Frontier Communications, then the meeting was directed primarily to other topics. These topics included whether MBI might perform some of the make ready components during the interim in which New Marlborough would be seeking legislative authority to enter into a long-term financial contract. The latter matter and how best to proceed was examined. Moving forward with a properly structured procurement process and the need for some expert assistance in the matter was reviewed. The possible use of existing dark fiber in the middle mile was raised and discussion ensued with MBI noting that the State is reviewing how best to maximize that asset.

Separately, Mr Long noted recent telephone calls with Frontier seeking to assess their progress in estimating potential costs to design, make ready and implement a last mile fiber solution in New Marlborough.

4. The Committee then considered the next steps for preparing an RFP and beginning a Home Rule petition for legislative authority to enter into a long-term contract. Meetings will be set with Representative Smitty Pignatelli and staff to address the Home Rule initiative. Additionally, the Committee will assemble other sample RFP's as a potential guide to preparation of our own. MBI is also expected to provide some consulting assistance on this latter matter, hopefully with a meeting to be set later in the month.

5. Mr. Long agreed to contact Philip Holahan of MBI regarding assistance in understanding Massachusetts' law on the Home Rule process and procurement rules. Separately, a sample contract form will be solicited from Frontier. Mr. Wright will further discuss with a property owner

a potential site for a telecommunications hut. Mr. Stalker will look on-line for various sample RFP's. The next meeting was scheduled tentatively for August 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

6. On motion duly made, seconded and with unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas R. Stalker", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Thomas R. Stalker, Secretary