

NEK Community Broadband

Tech Committee Meeting Minutes

January 26, 2021 6-7pm

Attendees: Jami Jones (clerk), Shawn Burroughs, Mike Gaiss (governing board), Jock Gill (governing board), Jonathan Baker, Noah Armstrong, Christine Hallquist (admin), James Sweeney (member of the public), Ray Lanier, Bruce Wheeler (governing board), Nick Anzalone (Executive Committee at 6:16pm)

Agenda Review-

Updates-

New Business-

- Review the appointment of Ray Lanier
 - Ray gave a brief introduction of himself and his experience that he offers to the Technology Committee

Other Business-

- Discussion on last mile solutions
 - Althea was presented as a viable option that could be up and coming
 - Uses radio of approximately a 3 mi radius “chained” together or “piggybacking” one another.
 - Support model? Althea provides support for their systems. For more information: www.althea.net
- Update on Starlink
 - \$500 for the initial cost (terminal), no data cap (in-beta), moving to 10 Gigabit service, perhaps \$50-60 per month in the future.
 - In beta so install is do-it-yourself. May be different in the future.
 - Could be an opportunity for local jobs.
 - Could use a cell phone as “catcher”
 - Starlink is a cable based tech which attaches to an antenna, self-orienting, and “user-friendly”
 - Uses cellphone app to tell you if the antenna is receiving or facing the correct direction.
 - Now that Starlink has actual data, tech in the area, the CUD ought to consider the options. However, we need more data.

- Questions on: install, reliability, value in working with the CUD, up and down times.
- To pilot Starlink was looking for 30 residences within a 3 mile radius the town center
- The CUD could bring reduced acquisition costs by having “feet on the ground”
 - Giving Starlink money from the state for base-stations.
- Comparable prices for Kingdom Fiber connection (\$500)
 - Will be meeting with CUD in February
- The NEK CUD could do both (Starlink and Fiber) as the time frames allow as a multi-technology solution.
- Would like to receive continued data
- We would like to present a technology committee offering to have 30-40 addresses available for Starlink and see if they are prepared to reach into Vermont in a more tangible way via Mike Gaiss
- One initiative within the CUD is to promote local jobs and increase the local economy.

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Jones, NEK Community Broadband Clerk