

NEK Community Broadband

Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

December 1, 2020 6-7:30pm

Attendees: Shawn Burroughs, Jami Jones(clerk), David Martin, Bruce Wheeler, Noah Armstrong, Christine Hallquist (Admin), Nick Anazol, Jonathan Baker, Evan Carlson

Agenda Review- 2min- Meeting Postponed had been postponed

Updates-

New Business-

- Christine Gave a presentation on wireless for the committee.
- Discussion on Fixed wireless, Mobile Wireless, LTE
 - Comments: we have to be considerate of goals and endpoints for end users who want/need the internet now. Do we need to make other plans to address separate addresses that we may not be able to reach this year.
 - Fixed wireless has its shortcomings because of the mountains of Vermont.
 - How does fixed wireless hold up to weather? No problem, but you have to look at the specs and power and what objects are interfering with the signals. I.E. other channels, trees, mountains, etc. Good for shortrange, but not long range in VT
 - Althea: mesh network. If you go up in frequency you get more bandwidth, but if you go down you have to take into consideration the obstacles and how many houses/buildings you are trying to apply the wireless to.
 - Is there a threshold for the distance or geographic issues that may get in the way of good signal? Are there too many variables? Depending on obstacles and users, if you can “see the lightbulb” then you can “use the lightbulb.” The equipment is durable, (15+ years) and reaches a good distance. Have to have hotspots to use a laptop/phone.

- Look up ubiquiti antennas
- Evidence to show that the system is able to cover a wide variety of users within certain ranges and depending on the antennas and physics.
- Fixed wireless has the potential to reach people quickly at an efficient cost to people who would not be able to immediately get fiber.
- The next step: Christine has reviewed the feasibility study and is preparing a summary for the board, and we need to move to our own business plan vs. The Tilson business plan. We could include fixed wireless into the plan as well
- Are we including small providers? Yes.
- Will there be more of a customer burden in the plan? There is the possibility for the consumers to pay part of the equipment cost, but it depends on how much gets charged and how much access would be restricted. A question for the governing board.
- How do we find out what addresses would not be served? Tilson gave the CUD 8 areas that will pay back within 3 years. The areas that we can get to over a 10 year period could be explored in another study, and what can we provide to those who are waiting while we are installing fiber for 10 years.
- A 10 business plan is suggested.
- Question raised to tap into the fiber going through craftsbury? It was confirmed that that is the plan.
- The committee would like to get more information on the providers and how the CUD could plug into what is pre-existing.

Other Business-

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Jami Jones, Clerk

Information on how to access the remote meeting:

Shawn Burroughs is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: NEK CUD Technology Committee

Time: Nov 24, 2020 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Last Tue, until Nov 30, 2021, 13 occurrence(s)

Dec 29, 2020 06:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly:

https://zoom.us/meeting/tJwtc-usrzMpHdd_HT2z9msy49pVgZ4vjfrz/ics?icsToken=98tyKuCgrj8oHtWdsx6ERow-Ao-ga-jzmFzegqdZozfRUToKbxDvYrtSBLVFRM7a

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Passcode: 882825

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You may be prompted to enter a meeting ID: 980 4241 8373
passcode:882825

To ensure smooth access, we recommend that you test your remote meeting software in advance of the meeting. **If you have difficulty accessing the meeting, please call 617-909-3408 or email execs@nekbroadband.org.**