

WINCHESTER TOWN BROADBAND COMMITTEE

February 28, 2023

Pending approval of the Broadband Committee

Meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Hochstetter at 12:04

Present at meeting: Jim Hochstetter, Gary Engstrom, Dave Lull, Nicholas Newton, Nancy Johnson, John Grimmer. Guest: Jeff Whitney

Agenda remained as published

Gary moved, Dave seconded to approve December, 2022 meeting minutes

Public comments - none

Correspondence - John updated group on a request for 2 additional cell towers in Winchester. The town signed a letter of interest saying they would like to talk more with the companies requesting the locations. Will know more in 2-3 months

New Business:

The status of the current Brightspeed/ Manitowish Waters/Winchester project is as follows:

- PSC grant money is less in this round with increased projects vying for funds. This has impacted the cost of any proposed projects
- Brightspeed reviewed the Manitowish Waters project and presented increased cost and reduced funding of their portion. Project is at a standstill. With this development the Winchester project is also stalled
- More state/Federal funding will be coming in 2023
- Gary suggested that Winchester needs to be better positioned for future projects by committing dollars now. John Grimmer and Jeff Whitney agreed and will take to board for discussion

Discussed reaching out to other providers in light of Brightspeed's backing off of providing the service. Dave will use his list of contacts and begin the process

Plan for next meeting is as needed with any new information

Adjourned at 1:00

Posted this day:

Nancy Johnson, Committee Secretary