
STC Meeting Minutes – July 6, 2018

Call to order

A meeting of the Sherman Telecommunications Committee was held at Mallory Town Hall on July 6, 2018. The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM.

Attendees included First Selectman Don Lowe [DL], Gail Maletz [GM], Steve Maletz [SM], Terri Hahn [TH], Zoe Sochor [ZS] and Al Zeisler [AZ].

All members were in attendance.

Approval of minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2018 STC meeting was made by DL and seconded by SM. Unanimously approved as distributed.

Correspondence/Public Comment

- None

Old Business

- Status of Sherman's emergency equipment installation lease at Tower Hill:** Chris Fuchs of Sherman Volunteer Fire Dept. gave an update at the June 28 Board of Selectmen meeting. SM, who was present, recounted: Fuchs was in meetings with DL in New Fairfield, and neither were happy with the terms of the lease offered. Fuchs found an alternative location at the water tower on Big Trail Extension, owned by Aquarion, to be a better deal than the \$20,000 per year New Fairfield wanted. It was reported that Aquarion would charge \$1,000/year. In addition, a generator and other equipment to get up and running would cost approximately 25-35,000 dollars. There still would be some dead zones in Sherman but coverage for Routes 37 and 39 would be good. Fuchs is working with engineers to get drawings necessary for Aquarion's approval. Once approved, the project can move forward. Fuchs secured permission from land owner Aldo Pascarella.

NOTE: Coverage is for emergency service only, not cell service, as was erroneously reported in the Town Tribune.

AZ suggested neighbors be informed of the equipment necessary for the site – specifically the generator – to head off any objections. He also asked if it is possible to locate an emergency phone on route 37, asking if it is technically possible, and what the federal, state or town regulations are for adding emergency contact boxes.

ACTION: GM to write letter to the editor to correct inaccuracies in the Town Tribune article; she will also contact Fuchs to confirm whether a generator will be dedicated to emergency

equipment, and if so, will there be any action to minimize noise. She will also ask Fuchs if it is possible to add a phone/emergency contact box along route 37.

- B. **Status of T-Mobile lease at Happy Acres Farm:** DL reported that Planning & Zoning did not have a public hearing last night, but a letter was read into record. T-Mobile applied for a dish and was approved. The addendum from T-Mobile and the farmers has to go back to the Town's attorney and get approval by T-Mobile because the Town's selectmen had issues with it.
- C. **Update – Homeland Towers/Ray Vergati & Aldo Pascarella (DL).** DL reported that there has been no meeting yet.
- D. **Update – AT&T's plans for Sherman (DL).** DL reported that both AT&T and Verizon are interested in Homeland builds.
- E. **Update – Facebook page (ZS).** ZS reported that the facebook page previously named Residents for Reliable Cell Service in Sherman has been re-named to the Sherman Telecommunications Committee, retaining its followers. The "About" or "Our Story" section has also been updated.
- F. **Update – Communication with Felicia Jones of NWConneCT (TH).** RFPs have been sent out to the major carriers for building out fiber optics. Jones is preparing for a roadshow. She can attend a STC meeting; members felt it was better to attend a more publicly attended BoS meeting for other government groups and interested residents.

ACTION: DL to invite them to present at the September BoS meeting.

- G. **Meeting time for future STC Meetings (GM).** Members agreed to meet at 11:00 am on the first Friday of every month. Next, Aug 3.

New Business

- A. **Other items suggested by members of the Committee**

- **Review of emergency services at school.**

ACTION: AL will get a copy of the report to review and if necessary work with the school board to insert cell phone-related issues.

- **Tower relay station.** AL asked if there was a tower relay station placed within a 1/2 mile of the center of town, would that make a difference in cell service.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 PM. Next meeting: Friday, August 3, 2018 at 11:00 am, Mallory Town Hall