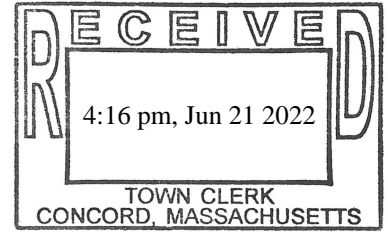


Fiber Broadband Completion Task Force - APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting Date: Jan 27, 2022

Videos can be found at Minuteman Media Network Youtube Channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/MinutemanMediaNetwork>



A recording is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mjfwkf9_iE
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plsQmgG73ZI>

Concord Fiber Broadband Task Force
Held virtually via Zoom, beginning at 6:30 pm.

A recording is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mjfwkf9_iE
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUk6r-j8hFwin1lwht-RViA>

Roll call Attendance

Mark Howell	Present
Gordon Brockway	Absent (join at 7:03 PM)
David Hesel	Absent
Scott Hopkinson	Present
Gail Hire	Present

Other attendees:

Lois Suarez
Karlen Reed
Terri Ackerman

We have a quorum.

Jan 13 minutes – Gail sent edits.
Scott will – take inputs from Gail and Mark –

Jan 6. – still outstanding
Scott need to submit meeting. Minutes.

Chair Report – Mark Howell

Did attend Select board before the special town meeting, Gordon as well.
Select Board extended and modify charge for this committee to serve through June 30, 2022.

Feb meetings proposed:

Thursday next and the week there after.
March 17 – enterprise budget hearing.

Select Board is having a focus meeting on Monday Jan 31. At 6:30 PM

Focus is the American Recovery Act.
Meeting will be all virtual.

This Select Board meeting will include extension to Fiber Committee (this) extension.
Mark has been researching on Treasury Department Rules on Broadband.
This is a good topic to weigh in on.

Good to understand what the deadlines are.

Scott: is someone in Concord Broadband going to work how to extract funds from the America Recovery funds. ?

Discussion –

Mark – we should make recommendations and they may be very time sensitive.

Terri Ackerman- indicated that staff should like to get input.

The Select Board is looking for input from the committees.

We have until 2024 to decide and up to 2026 to spend it.

If our plans accomplish multiple objective such as address inequities plus broadband.

Being a welcoming community, access to fiber - very good way

Karlen Reed – 83 Whits End – public comment:

Commented that it is fiber or is it broadband (e.g. Comcast) that is pays the franchise fee based on cable service not on broadband service.

Teri – Comment: – there were \$28 M in request from Sudbury and they received \$ 5M received.

1) Pots: infrastructure bill

2) ARPA- (American Rescue Plan Act)

a) one part \$5.6 M has been allocated to Concord.

b) Part two – we can apply for more for specific projects.

Mark – There are some lively discussion in the broadband forms discussing using maps from census.

The treasury department on the infrastructure side.

They are entertaining municipality can specify that a particular area is not served or underserved.

This may be an opportunity to define smaller projects that would fit into the criteria.

This may require more detail evaluation.

Mark is investing to what might move the needle on this issue

Gail - If anyone can get service from Comcast (including broadband) then the conclusion might be that the whole town is served.

Wonder if some time in the future, 2024, 2026 we can get the whole town connected.

That may lead to other great things or criteria.

Scott – Comcast is required to serve in all locations for Comcast TV cable.

Gail – the fact is there are areas that do not served.

Gordon Brockway joins at 7:30 PM

Mark brought Gordon up to speed on the current discussion.

Mark indicated we should plan to participate and make recommendations.

There are portions of the town that are not served.

We should describe how these interact with the objectives and we should make the points to the Select Board.

Gordon – it is a practice that is discussed it needs to be attached to the minutes.

Scott – if that is the case, the presentation from CMLP with the appropriate attachment needs to be distributed in with the minutes.

Mark:

Discussion Fredrick Winters communication relating to the road program intends to update Stacey Circle and possible update as the road is schedule for working / servicing in 2022. Stacey Circle is a cul de sac there is already electric service underground and there is not fiber. Public works sends out a letter citing roads that are scheduled reconstruction.

A number of road that are schedule to be reworked / rebuild, there is a moratorium to digging up the road for at least five (5) years. Discussion was about what expectation to having fiber to installed. Mark reviewed on the screen the response. See letter below. Construction would start this May.

David Wood responded that the funds from CMLP are available from underground surcharge however they cannot be applied for undergrounding conduit the road. This is governed by MGL 166. (See attached email)

Gail indicated that this was the (main) reason why she came up with Article 41.

Scott commented that CMLP is constrained that they cannot spend rate-payer funds for power to adding infrastructure for broadband.

Mark – there are projects every year that should be checked for feasibility for undergrounding conduit.

Gordon – how much does cost, rate at about \$1 M per mile is the reference for undergrounding utilities.

Discussion on the real cost to bring fiber optical cable via conduit underground.

Stacey Circle 13 parcels and 679+862 = 1540 feet
(4 tubes of 5 optics)

Gail indicated there was a report she came across that indicated fiber undergrounding cost at \$ 86,000 per mile. Gail will send the report to committee members.

Example calculations:

Utilities	Broadband (per report Gail referenced)
===== Cost Per Mile =====	===== Cost Per Mile =====
\$1,000,000.0	\$86,000.0
\$189.39	\$16.29 cost per foot
=====	=====

Example if we believe the \$86K per mile from the report referenced.

===== Madison - \$197K covering 39 home Stacey Circle would cost ~ \$45 K (1540 x \$16.29) =====
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Mark if we know the road is being rebuild ,these projects should be considered. Mark will follow up with town staff.

Gordon:

We agree not to surface the number as to the cost but rather the recommendation and see what CMLP can do for cost.

The opportunity is the work is being done (road resurfacing / rebuild), it is an opportunity to add the conduit.

Mark This would be a good time to get together a cost estimate.

Agreement – this is one of the white spaces that needs to be address.

This is good coordination among town departments that we should be promoting.

Mark will ask for participation form town staff on how this opportunity might be considered.

Gordon – there may be a situation that a lighter touch may be appropriate.

Mark – hypothetical there are a number of opportunities that come up every year
If there was fiber completion fund to replenish as these projects were build.
When your street gets rebuilt, then the fiber will be added.

Scott described how to how allocate into report.

Description of the opportunity / problem – road is being rebuilt

Description of possibility how it might be paid for – such as a fiber undergrounding fund.

This is all a recommendation.

Mark – Concord is behind in the road condition.

Some treatments that are less than full depth reconstructions

Discussion on the option and right of concord residents to have the choice to access with fiber.

Gordon – there could be year where the road reconstruction may or may not include places with lack of fiber. Other years there may be a lot of opportunity to add fiber.

Mark – discussed Cambridge Turnpike

Mark indicated that the public works would be open to it.

Gordon - / Mark there is about 110 miles of street in Concord.

Mark – indicated that 81,001 feet (15 miles)

These are the miles not served in the underserved spread sheet from GIS

Parcels that were passed.

1.2 miles of Virginia Road included.

(10%)

Discussion on the rate of road repairs / reconstruction and the rate that Concord would have to take.

Mark – here is something that happens every year.

This is an opportunity to apply and use a leveling fund to address this opportunity.

This creates an acceptable level of focus.

Mark we are discussing this because someone contacted us and asked a question. It is appreciated.

Mark – anything to report on report section progress.

Scott asked when the draft of sections need to be submitted.

Mark has committed to generate the report by May 1.
Start discussing with various commits such as Light Board, and other.
If we took May 1 that gives us Feb, March and April to solidify

Mark proposes that first draft by March 1 and a revised version by April 1.
Mark would like to assemble a first cut by March 1.

Mark / Scott – we could look at the sections, particularly in outline form before March 1.

Gail – it would be convenient to have all the minutes in the same place.
Mark is going to make sure all the minutes
Mark is going to focus on getting posting and minutes posted.
Minutes are important to review.
Scott suggested that Mark could send the minutes to everything to the committees.

Mark will attempt to get all the minutes completed by next Thursday.
Mark- when we vote to approve – who ever needs to save the approved minutes and send to Mark.

Discussion of logistics of minutes. Clerk to send to Mark.

Mark Next week:

Next week we will start working on the problem statement.
Further discussion on how to approach the road program.

Discussion about having town employees participating in this committee meeting.

Discussion of the payment in lieu of franchise. (\$18,000 in 2021) (was transferred to support MMN)
MMN is minuteman media network
Mark indicated that it may not be a requirement.
Discussion that particular burden – the pilot is also true for solar.

Discussion of payment in lieu of taxes that don't give customer any tax write off of those taxes.

Discussion of proximity town to Hanscom and airport operations.

Public Comments: Hearing none (additional to the ones above) :

Motion to adjourn

Gail moved to adjourn
Gordon seconded.

Mark Howell	Aye
Gordon Brockway	Aye
David Hesel	not present
Scott Hopkinson	Aye

Gail Hire

Aye



Dave Wood

RE: FY23 Roads Program coordination with Fiber Completion

To: Steve Dookran, Mark Howell, Cc: Alan Cathcart, Gregory Marcinek, Stephane Cherduville

January 25, 2022 at 4:09 PM



[Details](#)

Good Afternoon,

Undergrounding of electric facilities is funded through a surcharge on electric bill. These funds can only be used for the conversion of overhead electric facilities, owned by CMLP, to underground electric facilities. This is governed by MGL 166. As such our goal is to work with CPW when funds are available for conversion from OH to UG. Currently we have no plans for future installation of conduit to be funded by the UG surcharge funds. Currently we have a number of roads that conduit has been install and now the distribution system needs to be installed in the conduit system. This will deplete the underground fund and it will take an additional 3-4 year of collection to have enough funds for the next mile of conversion. At that time we will coordinate with CPW on what their plans our and work with them on the next project.

Regards

Dave

From: Steve Dookran <sdookran@concordma.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 3:45 PM

To: mark_howell@mac.com

Cc: Alan Cathcart <ACathcart@concordma.gov>; David Wood <dwood@concordma.gov>; Gregory Marcinek <gmarcinek@concordma.gov>; Stephane Cherduville <scherduville@concordma.gov>

Subject: RE: FY23 Roads Program coordination with Fiber Completion

Mark,

Stephane forwarded your questions for me to respond.

When streets are selected for our annual roads program, we send out the list to all underground Utilities so they can plan and perform their work ahead of the paving. Jeff Cosgrove of CMLP has received our list of streets for paving in 2022 and we are waiting to see if his department is planning any work on those streets. We are open to adjusting the schedule of the paving of the streets you highlighted if there is a commitment to install fiber conduit in short order. I have left a message with Gregory to start a discussion on this topic.

I wanted to point out that our project this year is 2022 Roads Improvement (not FY23 Roads Program) which is expected to start as early as May 2022.

Let us know if you need anything else.

*Stephen Dookran, PE
Town Engineer
(978) 318-3219*