

Petersham Broadband Committee
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Call to order

Chip Bull called to order the regular meeting of the Petersham Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board at 7:00PM on September 13, 2017 in the lower level of the Town Hall.

Roll Call

Chip Bull conducted a roll call. The following PMLPB members were present: Chip Bull, Nancy Allen, John Blum, and Andre Pierre.

Chris Lynch and Zach Magid, representing Matrix Design Group, were also in attendance as was Roy Nilson, representing Petershamcommon.com.

The minutes of the August 16 meeting were reviewed and accepted by the Board.

Mark Bishop was also present , in the of an interested Petersham resident.

Business before the Board

- The Board reviewed the status of the applications for Make-Ready work.
 - John Blum, in his capacity as "Utility Liaison" has been in contact with the Utilities and provided needed signatures to get into their Make-Ready work system.
 - Some checks have already been cut for Utility application fees & for Matrix pole survey work.
 - The town still needs to get proof of insurance for the Utilities from MIIA.
 - Once the Board has an agreement number from the utilities (which will never change) it will have to submit pole applications in batches of 10, accompanied by 10 checks (one per application).

- Chris Lynch reported that Matrix Design Group has provided a certificate of Insurance to MIIA.

- Zach Magid of Matrix provided a comprehensive update/demo of the strand map and design data set collected to date. He indicated the next step would be a network design that would achieve the maximum number of residential/business connections made per unit time during construction.

- Members of the MLP Board and others in attendance viewed the newly constructed equipment room in the lower level of the Town Hall. It took about 2 weeks to construct and cost \$13300.

- The Board reviewed communications with state-level agencies :

- The board discussed the details of the September 8th reply letter from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED). In this letter the EOHED confirmed that Petersham's share of state construction allocation was \$880K.
- In a conference call Bill Ennen of the MBI said the Governor's office acknowledged that 8 Million under MBI control is not enough money to fund all its eligible projects
- When our contract is signed we should share it with the EOHED to show that we can indeed buy the network in the future. The hope is that they may decide to include us in their funding program.
- Jim Goulet has said he would be willing to give an opinion that the Town's contract with Matrix Design Group amounts to effective town ownership of the network because of the included buyout option.

- It was indicated that at this time the attorneys' work on the contract is holding up the issuance of the surety bond required for Make-Ready work. The attorneys must be encouraged to finalize their revisions of the contract language as soon as possible so that it can go to Select Board for signing.

Motions

- A motion was made to empower Board Chair Chip Bull to sign the contract with Matrix, on behalf of the Board, should it be ready before the next full meeting. The motion was unanimously passed.

After some general discussion, there being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Minutes Submitted by: Andre Pierre