

# Minutes

**Broadband Committee**  
**October 28, 2020 at 3 PM**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**East Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01028**

**Members Present:** Chair Donald Maki, Donald Anderson, Connor O’Shea, Bruce Adams, Ryan Quimby

**Members Absent:** N/A

**Others Present:** Mary McNally, Town Manager

The meeting was opened at 3:00 PM.

**Motion:** Mr. Anderson moved to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes. Mr. Quimby seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. O’Shea - aye; Mr. Anderson - aye; Mr. Quimby - aye; Mr. Adams - abstain; Mr. Maki - aye.

Mr. Maki had a page for the committee created on the town website and has posted some links to information on it.

Mr. Maki brought up a few instances where residents had service issues or new developments that wouldn’t be expected to have service for many months to inquire how they should be addressed moving forward. In the past, he would forward the information to a representative at Charter. Mr. Anderson suggested that a representative from each company could come to a Town Council meeting to address questions and concerns from the public. Ms. McNally, Jennifer Kerr (Assistant to the Town Manager), and Mr. Maki will work out a strategy to help point customers in the right direction to resolving their complaints with Charter or other service providers in a timely manner.

Mr. Maki recalled that he mentioned the Charter license renewal in the previous meeting, but wanted to add that a public hearing has to be held before the license can be renewed. The current license will expire in May of 2021.

Mr. Anderson asked if cable television licenses in surrounding communities are public record and available for comparison? Mr. Maki said that licenses are public record and can be found on the Mass.gov website, although they may be out of date. He also noted that licenses for different providers will be different and that other communities that have a license granted to Charter may have provisions specific to their community that have been carried over from many years ago.

Mr. Maki asked if a member of the committee could reach out to Wilbraham’s committee to see where they are, why they may have stalled, and to gather more concrete facts? Mr. Quimby offered to reach out to his contacts in Wilbraham to answer those questions.

Mr. Maki asked if a member of the committee could curate a list of ways to get television programming that are available to East Longmeadow residents in 2020? Mr. Anderson wondered if this was limited to cable or if streaming services applied, as he personally uses YouTube TV. Additionally, he saw an advertisement on social media for T-Mobile's wireless home internet service for \$50 per month. Mr. Maki said all types of service, such as antenna, packages from Charter Spectrum, and online streaming, would be included in the postcard-like list of choices. Mr. Adams said the postcard listing the choices in town would be good for new residents to see what options they have when they move to town. Ms. McNally said it's a good idea anytime we can provide more information to the public in an easily accessible manner. She offered her assistant's services to put together this information.

Mr. Maki asked how the committee should proceed? He suggested that we research the facts and general monetary figures to both do our due diligence and to have answers when residents ask why the town doesn't offer municipal broadband. Ms. McNally cautioned that we won't be able to get specific with all of the costs and details, as other communities undergo an expensive study to analyze all of that information. Mr. O'Shea suggested that we list out the 20 conditions or hurdles the town would have to overcome in order to make it feasible now or in the future. Ms. McNally said that having a baseline is important when re-evaluating the issue in the future. Mr. O'Shea offered to put together a list of considerations.

Mr. Anderson offered to keep on top of the latest news in the broadband space and will keep the committee apprised.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 18, 2020 at 3 PM.

**Motion:** Mr. Qumby moved to adjourn. Mr. O'Shea seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. O'Shea - aye; Mr. Anderson - aye; Mr. Quimby - aye; Mr. Adams - aye; Mr. Maki - aye.

Adjourned at 4:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Connor O'Shea