

Bow Telecommunications Committee

May 3, 2024

Approved Minutes

On May 3, 2024, Bow Telecommunications Committee met in Room C at the Bow Municipal Building, 10 Grandview Drive, Bow NH 03304.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dee Treybig called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. Chair Dee Treybig, Co-Chair Deb McCann, Select Board Representative Kip McDaniel, Select Board Alternate Ian Flanagan, Bow Community Development Director Karri Makinen, Committee Members Mike Wheeler and Marilee Nihan were present. Volunteer consultant Mark Nolin was not able to attend. Guest Mike Lawton from Isotrope was also present, prepared to present their independent report.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes from the 4/12/24 meeting were presented for review and approval. Two minor changes made Wayne to Wheeler name correction in attendees and adjournment voting count 6-0, not 7-0. Dee Treybig motioned to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mike Wheeler. Motion passed 6-0.

III. NEW BUSINESS

It was at this point in the meeting, Select Board Representative Kip McDaniel asked to be heard regarding recusal. The McDaniel property looks to be an abutter to one of the possible proposed locations in the Isotrope report. In the interest of transparency, Kip feels that he should recuse himself and alternate Ian Flanagan will step up to replace him for the committee. Mike Wheeler also mentioned his property's proximity to a proposed site, but the committee did not think that recusal was necessary for him at this time as he is not an elected official in the final voting process. Karri Makinen proposed that today's discussion focus on the "big picture" and that any changes to Committee assignments will be determined by the Select Board at a future date.

A. Mike Lawton, Isotrope LLC RF Engineer presented the report (attached) with the propagation . He took existing tower sites and did two plots: 1) Low Band and 2) High Band. There was discussion as to obvious “gaps” in coverage. These were observed in the Bow Bog area, White Rock/Page roads, which includes the high school area. The predictive coverage uses topography, and Mike noted that sites should be within 4-5 SD for this model's accuracy. Dee Treybig posed the question, where do we start? Dead areas with no coverage? Mike Wheeler said that the map shows opportunities that meet the committee charge of providing the most coverage with the least number of towers.

The Committee discussed tower placement on the maps presented. Karri asked if Mike could overlay the maps to see what areas are still missing coverage with each proposed new tower. Marilee asked if a tower could be “too high” for usage? Mike Lawton responded, “not really”. Karri commented that the Committee's goal is not tower placement, this would be up to the developer.

Ian Flanagan suggested that we start looking at the BHS site and work outward. Discussion of possibly placing a tower near fields and including lights. There's a school in CT that worked with the cell developer to this end, with the developer bearing the cost of the lights. Ian will reach out to the School Board Chair about this possibility.

Dee Treybig suggested that we need to put out a new survey for the town, similar to the one done by the former citizen committee. Possibly a “Survey Monkey” format used by the previous committee for the 2019 survey completed. Marilee said we should review previous survey questions and add/delete carriers, come up with new questions. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

Construction continues on access to the tower site on Branch Londonderry Turnpike East. The platform should be completed by mid-late May. Tentatively AT&T and possibly Verizon will be online as of September.

Dee Treybig offered new information on the new Hooksett tower rebuild on South Bow Road that will host Verizon Wireless. The original plan to put the new tower behind and adjacent to the current radio only tower has developed a major setback. A crane must be able to go around the current tower to assemble the new tower and with guide wire positions on the current tower, this is not possible without major tree removal for clearance.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. FINAL WORDS

Karri Makkinen commented that she was grateful to Mike Lawton, he is very easy to work with. Dee Treybig said we are still in the learning curve and hopes this experience provides lessons for change in the future. Marilee Nihan appreciates the sites suggested and that the schools continue to be an obvious priority.

VII. SCHEDULE MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 5/21/3024 at 9am.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Deb McCann motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 AM, seconded by Mike Wheeler. Motion passed 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deb McCann