

**Approved Minutes of Beaver Island
Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Beaver Island Community School | June 11, 2019 5:00PM**

Present

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Wil Cwikel, Neal Green, and Dick Mulvihill

Absent

Paul Welke, Gary Conant, Paul Cole

Audience

Paul Niehaus

Meeting began at 5:03 pm.

May 21, 2019 minutes are approved without objection.

Kevin Boyle updated the committee on the NMU Reconnect Application. It has been filed and Beaver Island was included in the application. The north end service is aligned with the service they will provide. A new tower and new LTE equipment is included in Beaver Island's package. NMU expects to hear the results by Fall 2019 with a tentative Spring 2020 start date for the build.

It is discussed that the township has acreage so another tower could be constructed near the existing tower. Kevin checked out the Engadine tower and it is not as wide as our current towers. He anticipates that something similar would be built. Ultimately we will need space on their UP tower and visa versa so it is anticipated that we will collaborate on our projects.

The bottom line is that NMU is optimistic with the application process.

On the UP link – Eric Smith (of NMU) will try to get a commitment on a committed speed that the island could receive (with possible 3' dishes on each side) that would service both community and educational broadband. Cambrian would not certify link with 3' dishes and they want 6' dishes to support the LTE broadband system, however, a pair of dishes (6' plus a 3') could be used and later built on if more space is needed. Eric Smith is working on pricing. One added note, the NMU system is 5G capable.

Discussion about a telecommunications presentation on the annual BIA meeting on July 8th at 4 pm. The presentation that was given to the townships would likely be repeated to the BIA group. Possible consideration for guest speakers to be invited: Eric Smith, NMU and GLE.

Action: Kitty will pursue conversation with townships for their blessing to present current telecommunications update to the BIA board. Ultimately it is the townships that will give approval on what should be done on Beaver Island.

TDS update

It was brought to our attention that a new homeowner was told that TDS does not have the capability to issue any more landlines? It seems that they could need more port allocation?

Action: Kitty will reach out to TDS reps to clarify situation and get replies on previous conversations that were held with the reps. What are the regulatory requirements? Wil C. is going to call TDS as he has new property and will need a landline. He would like to see what the response will be.

Meeting adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Next Meeting Date

The next BITAC Meeting will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 5:00PM at the Beaver Island Community School conference room.