

**Approved Minutes of Beaver Island
Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Beaver Island Community School | August 14, 2019 6:00PM**

Present

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Neal Green, Gary Conant and Dick Mulvihill

Absent

Paul Welke

Audience

Doug Fulp, Cynthia Johnson, Paul Niehaus

Call to order at 6:05 pm

June 11, 2019 minutes are approved by McNamara, second by Conant, all in favor.

Kevin Boyle shared interactive program to demonstrate the Beaver Island “Pools of Service” and the equipment costs. See attachments.

Ideally, the Font Lake tower would be used to catch signal from Engadine on the mainland. Hubs or stations would be created in town that could beam signal over the harbor area and distribute to other points. The distance and terrain will dictate the strength of the signal but 500 mb of bandwidth could be shared within the harbor service area. The user group would be limited to 15-20 users.

Engadine would become part of backhaul for the system that we build on Beaver Island. See charts on page 4 of “Pools of Service”.

The equipment estimated is used by commercial carriers and we would be using it as it’s intended to be used.

Questions about who would manage the “Pools of Service”? Who would collect fees and monitor? Site repairs? Develop a consortium?

Quickstart Program Discussion by Dick. This system would be used to illustrate what we have on the island and better define our needs. We could then design, develop and price out an appropriate system. Program would enable us to see structures and scenarios as well as develop spreadsheets. All info could then be shared (Great Lakes Energy). See attachment. Kitty will communicate with her board and Peaine Township to express the importance that we sign an agreement and move forward.

Discussion that information should be shared with Townships. This is important to community and the citizens will benefit by using service at specific locations. Arguments need to be made on what the benefits are and how this improves life on Beaver Island not only for year round residents but also for visitors (ie, rentals).

Conversation follows that more discussion is needed with Great Lakes Energy. We are in an interim with our developments and we are only investigating short term solutions until

GLE can get to us. Would GLE build backhaul if we had fiber? Would they make a link and work with us?

More discussion should also be held with TDS.

NMU discussion. The FCC is changing its services and auctioning off part of the spectrum that is used for educational purposes (since the services have laid dormant in so many rural areas)! The FCC likes unique circumstances so Kevin will speak with NMU about including Beaver Island in their waiver request so we are not left behind.

Next Township meetings are September 4 (St. James Township @5:30 pm) and September 9 (Peaine @ 7 pm).

Next Meeting Date

The next BITAC Meeting will be a Tuesday, August 27th, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Beaver Island Community School conference room. NOTE the time change.