

**Draft Minutes of Beaver Island  
Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting  
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island  
Beaver Island Community School | Tuesday, October 15, 2019 6 pm**

**Present**

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Gary Conant, Wil Cwikel, Dick Mulvihill

**Absent**

Paul Welke, Neal Green

Call to order at 6:03 pm

Motion to approve last month minutes by McNamara. Conant seconds, all approve.

Peaine Township has approved the Letter of Intent for the Formation of a Beaver Island Broadband Consortium. See attachment. McNamara will send the Letter of Intent to the Health Center. Boyle will send the letter to the Community Center.

Boyle has been in contact with the Health Center and is working with Don Spencer. Spencer is interested in the service however the current system in place (TDS) fulfills their current needs. Our proposed service is comparable to the funds that they would have available. (Health Center funds were cut and it quite a bit is spent on the 10 MB TDS service)

Mulvihill is working on the QuickStart program and QuickStart has been in contact with TDS. An agreement should be ready in 2 weeks.

Mulvihill updated the committee on his recent trip to Arranmore Island in Ireland. He summarized his visit to the hub developed by Three Island and met with the Arranmore Island business council. The program that is in place on Arranmore took 10 years to develop! See attached link for video on Three Island communications hub on Arranmore. Three Island is a small business that is focusing on the consumer market. They created a wireless service but are moving forward with fiber to the mainland. Three Island/Arranmore are using their own people to lay the cable for fiber! Mulvihill comments that Three Island is willing to work with us as their "sister island". Could we get everyone on board and push with lots of PR??

Discussion follows with wireless service on Beaver Island. See attached map showing the coverage that AT&T provides to Beaver Island. According to AT&T, everything on the map in BLUE receives coverage! We know this to be false.

Can we do a study or a campaign to prove that we are not receiving the coverage we pay for? McDonough mentions the "Mark My Spot" app by AT&T. A free app that collects data if you report when you have lost coverage, a dropped call, etc.

It is agreed that we have safety issues when we do not have coverage and that we should have at least one carrier on the island that supports every spot on the island. Could we review the possibilities of a partnership with a carrier?

It is discussed that a joint letter from the townships and committee should be sent to a County Representative complaining about poor wireless service/coverage on Beaver Island. In addition this same letter should be sent to the local carriers: AT&T and Verizon.

Boyle updated the committee on the NMU connection and their intent to go to the FCC and add Beaver Island to their (NMU) license.

Boyle shared a "Rural Broadband Cooperative" packet that was developed for rural areas in northern New York without service and could be a helpful resource for our own committee. See attachment.

BITAC meetings will change to the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Wednesday of every month.

Adjourned 7:13 pm

**Next Regular Meeting Date**

The next BITAC Meeting will be Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at 5:00 PM in the Beaver Island Community School conference room.