

Town of Colrain
Select Board Meeting
Remote Conference Call-in
4:30 P.M.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021

Present Mark Thibodeau, Joe Kurland, Mike Slowinski

Others Present Michael Shuipis, MLP Coordinator; Mark Cappadona and Denise Allard, Colonial Power; Megan McDonough, Town Moderator; Betsy Shuipis, Administrative Assistant, Kevin Fox, Town Administrator

The meeting was called to order by Mark Thibodeau at 4:31 p.m.

Appointments Michael Shuipis, Broadband Project Update

Project Update:

- There are 484 subscribers (55% of the town); half of those are taking the phone service
- Overall progress is going well with only a few days lost to weather. We still expect to sign up the first houses by the end of the month. All the sectors should be completed by June.
- All the businesses in town have signed up.

Marketing:

- By the end of this month Michael will send out a mailing to all residents who have **not signed up** (approximately 400). The mailing will include a 2-sided flyer explaining the service we offer with encouragements to sign up.
- Once a few homes have been hooked up, Michael will set up an interview/article with The Recorder.
- Put the lawn signs back up in the spring.
- Michael suggested a robo call, but the Select Board thought personal calls would be better.

Requests/Dicussion

- Mark Thibodeau requested a list of people who haven't signed up yet so that he could talk up the service when the opportunity came up. Michael will send the list to Mark when he creates the mailing labels.
- Mike Slowinski brought up prioritizing families with children in schools when hook ups begin. Michael will email Westfield to get their input and discuss it at the MLP meeting next week.

Mark Cappadona, Colonial Power – Low-income Community Solar Aggregation

Mr. Cappadona gave an overview of the proposed program for low-income customers. Mr. Cappadona will send out more program details to Kevin, who will forward it to the board members. Kevin will vet the proposal through our town counsel. We should hear back from him in two weeks.

New Business Draft personnel policy discussion

Mary Arcardy, of the Collins Center, will come to the Select Board meeting of 2/23/21. The board members will have the policies well in advance to read them.

Old Business Discussion of Potential Timing of FY22 Annual Town Meeting

Megan McDonough thought a town meeting in June would work well. She requested that we get a good quality tent and sound system this year. Kevin will call Hilltown Tents for prices. A tentative date is set of June 19 at 9 a.m.

Unanticipated

Business

Alice Wozniak, Director of Assessing – Zoning Board of Appeals in-person hearing 3/1/21 at the Colrain Elementary School

The Select Board denied the request. **Kevin Fox will send an email to Alice, cc'ing Rocky Lively, Chair.**

Rebecca Novak, RCAP Solutions - GIS Software Grant for the Town of Colrain

This is a grant that Rebecca Novak would apply for on behalf of the Town of Colrain. The money would go directly to her, and she would handle the paperwork. The GIS would be used for locating drinking water systems, waste water systems, and storm water systems.

MOVED: Joe Kurland moved that we proceed with the steps needed for RCAP Solutions applying for and receiving a GIS grant. Mike Slowinski seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Town Administrator

Updates

No updates.

MOVED: Mike Slowinski moved to close the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Joe Kurland seconded. Roll call: **all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Shuipis
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board

Mark Thibodeau - Chair

Joe Kurland

Mike Slowinski

Documents

Select Board Meeting Notes

Email from Mark Cappadona, Colonial Power Group, Inc., to the Town Administrator re: Low-income Community Solar for Municipal Aggregation Utilizing SMART

Master Administrative Services Agreement for Smart Municipal Aggregation Master Memorandum of Understanding.

Email from Megan McDonough to the Town Administrator dated 2/3/21 re: FY22 Annual Town Meeting date.

Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management, UMass Boston, Draft Human Resources Review, Colrain, MA, January 2021