

Taghkanic Broadband Committee Report February 2018

With my being out-of-town and nasty weather on our meeting day, the Broadband Committee did not meet in February. However, Chris Tallackson attended the County Sub-committee meeting and reported as follows:

Taghkanic is basically blanketed by GTel. This is good news. There are still questions, however, about the remaining “white” areas (the county and other towns have those questions too, not just us). GTel was also reported to have some questions about why it wasn’t awarded certain census tracts for which it applied. There are also questions about getting service to each house in an awarded area. This all has to do with using census tracts to allocate awards instead of tax rolls and with certain providers “claiming” a tract even if they only provide service to one home of many there. The Phase III grant award data was posted on the state website for two days and then it vanished. The county believes the state office was overwhelmed with questions and is probably in the process of revising some of the information it initially posted but the state broadband office has also stopped responding to phone calls (again, probably overwhelmed). So—nothing nailed down 100% but I think Taghkanic is lucky to be mostly GTel rather than one of the much larger, non-local companies from whom it is much harder to get information. Anyway, the county captured the state data during the 48 hours it was posted and has prepared new maps which will now get posted on the county website conspicuously marked DRAFT.

John Reilly has also offered to do presentations to towns beyond the four who initiated the Saturday meeting in Copake. I am thinking we might like to have him give one to us. Perhaps we could include some adjoining town(s), maybe even his own Gallatin? We can go over this at our next meeting.

Arthur McGuire