

Taghkanic Broadband Committee Report

The Broadband Committee met on January 16, 2019. Matters discussed included Gtel's progress, news from the CCEDC, and continued communication with the public. Susan Raymond will prepare, with input from the rest of the Committee, a new update memo to be placed on the Town's website. Susan also mentioned anticipated changes to that website to give the Broadband memos a separate section where we can post prior memos. The new memo will include information from the various providers who provide some kind of Internet service within our town. Names of various companies will be distributed among the committee members to obtain more information on these companies. Since that time, Susan has been receiving this information and preparing the next draft of the report.

The inclusion of the various providers becomes important as we intend to invite all providers to a symposium in the Spring on Internet options and progress in Taghkanic. The current but developing plan is to have some introductory remarks as well as tables where providers can make individual presentations to residents.

Since this past meeting, we have received updated information from Frank Boscarillo, General Manager of Gtel. Gtel still remains our best hope for improved broadband service in Taghkanic. Frank's slightly edited comments are as follows:

“ * We have completed our network design for our Phase 3 build. Phase 3 adds 31 miles and will pass another 279 units in Taghkanic, Livingston, and even extending up to the Claverack area. There is also a very small Phase 3 area in southern Gallatin.

* We will submit the pole applications for Phase 3 by the end of February.

* I have been interviewing additional approved Make Ready contractors for National Grid. The company we use today is Northline Construction. We will continue our relationship with them, but I will be signing an agreement with one more company in order to augment Northline in the interest of expediting our MR timelines.

* We now conducting weekly meetings with Verizon, Osmose (approved engineering contractor for National Grid), Northline (mentioned above), and with Frontier, in order to prioritize and coordinate Make Ready work. While we don't meet weekly with Consolidated, we have a great relationship with them and talk on a regular basis.

* After 5 months, I am feeling that we have a much better handle on the remaining work that needs to be completed, and have built strong working relationships with [most] of the pole owners. For example, Northline has completed Make Ready work on over 760 poles and have already billed us for their work. Yet National Grid has not issued [all] the licenses that will allow us to attach our plant to their poles.

* I am about to engage a Project Manager (to work about 20 hours a week) from Mountain LTD to help manage, expedite, and escalate applications with all of

the pole owners, but with National Grid in particular. Mountain LTD has done work for other Grant Award winners in NY including Frontier, Armstrong, and Consolidated. They are quite familiar with the pole attachment and Make Ready challenges in the state of NY. I have worked with Mountain LTD in my past life, and have always been impressed with their work.

* I met today with Henkels and McCoy, and large company that does Electrical and Telecommunications construction across the country. I am reviewing a proposal for a general services agreement, that would allow us to utilize their employees and equipment for maintenance, storm restoration, and small construction jobs. H&M had constructed a large portion of GTel's copper infrastructure in the 80s and the 90s. I have asked them to provide a quote for the two remaining bores we need to do across the TSP, specifically where the parkway intersects with SR 82 and Post Road.

* No word yet on our requests for extensions from Empire State Development and the Broadband Program Office. They have told us that all the companies that requested the extensions will be notified at the same time. For what it is worth, all of those requesting extensions had to meet one-on-one with the BPO to present our cases, and our meeting went quite well.

* I am about to begin issuing the monthly Dashboard that Jason Shelton had been sending to the town leaders and interested stakeholders. ... At least at this point, there will be no discussion of timelines, but will focus more on where we stand, what we've accomplished, and our near term goals.

* We continue to splice the fiber that has already been placed. The splicers have been doing quite a bit of work in your area. We also have a crew placing drop wires from the pole to the house, and have been converting 10 to 15 customers to fiber a week, though admittedly all of those have been in our traditional service area where we owned all the poles. Based on feedback we've received from customers (we ask all customers to complete a survey post install), we have several delighted customers."

The Broadband Committee will continue to communicate with vendors and experts in the field and communicate what we learn to the residents of Taghkanic.

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur McGuire
Chairman
Taghkanic Broadband Committee

February 12, 2019