

Bow Telecommunications Committee

June28, 2024

Draft Minutes

On June 28, 2024, Bow Telecommunications Committee met in Room C at the Bow Municipal Building, 10 Grandview Drive, Bow NH 03304

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dee Treybig called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM. Chair Dee Treybig, Co-Chair Deb McCann, Bow Community Development Director Karri Makinen and Committee Member Mike Wheeler were present. Excused were Select Board Representative Ian Flanagan and Committee Member Marilee Nihan.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Minutes from the 5/21/24 were presented for review. It was noted that under “Old Business”, it mentions that the RTT tower has not yet been completed. Since the tower has since been completed, the words “has not been completed as of this meeting” have been added. Deb McCann motioned to accept the minutes as corrected, seconded by Mike Wheeler. Motion passed 4-0.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. New propagation map from Mike Lawton at Isotrope LLC was displayed by Karri Makinen. The Committee discussed making the proposed new tower sites more prominent, to distinguish them from the RTT tower and existing towers in Dunbarton and Hooksett. The discussion also included how to show coverage with the current RTT tower, then showing a comparison (side by side, back and forth or layover) to indicate the improvement in coverage.

B. The Isotrope LLC final report was reviewed. Correction is needed to indicate that the current Hooksett tower on South Bow Road is for Emergency only and due to difficulties in updating it, may take up to 2 years to host cellular. We will reiterate that the Committee is addressing “holes” in coverage in this area.

Final approval will be voted on upon receipt of the corrections.

C. Large map printouts will be ordered for posting in Meeting Room C and for the public presentation. Deb McCann suggested that we start by simply showing a “clean” map, with no propagation, and then add the additional coverage with the suggested new tower locations.

The Committee discussed that it is now within reason to contact the private homeowners who will be impacted by the suggestion of a cell tower on or near their property. Dee Treybig has spoken with three tower companies to ascertain possible interest in bidding our RFP. Industrial Communications (Tom Lennon), Structure Consulting and Mariner Towers (Louis Vitale). There seems to be no lack of interest, we will proceed with the RFP when the time is right.

Dee reported that in speaking with Tom Lennon of Industrial Communications, he indicated that the RTT tower may have more coverage than previously reported. Given that we have already had three propagation maps done for this area (RTT, Ivan ?, and Isotrope), it was suggested that we review the coverage when RTT goes “online”, hopefully in the next 2-3 weeks, ahead of schedule.

D. The Survey closed on 6/25/2024, results were reviewed. We didn’t quite hit the 1000 responses we wanted but received a good response. The survey will be shared at the public presentation.

E. The Public presentation has been tentatively scheduled for 9/9/2024 at 7 PM at the Bow Baker Free Library.

F. Deb McCann wanted to discuss the town Facebook page posting from 6/21. This post was somewhat misleading in presenting this Committee and its 14 months of work as proposed/implemented by the Select Board. The Committee was formed after a petitioned Warrant Article was withdrawn because the Select Board offered to sanction a committee without it. The Committee has worked tirelessly to be above-board and transparent in its actions and expects to be reported as such.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. The RTT tower site on Branch Londonderry Turnpike East has been completed. The tower is up, visible and has been issued a certificate of occupancy by the Building Inspector, Scott Tenney. ATT has been installed on the tower and Verizon Wireless has received a building permit to install its equipment and pour a slab for their ground equipment.

B. Committee Next steps:

1. Update Select Board at 7/23/2024 meeting.
2. Review corrected final report from Isotope LLC
3. Print large maps for Meeting room C and Public presentation
4. Assess venue options for Public Forum

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sue Wheeler asked what percentage of residents responded to the survey. Dee answered that we received 784 responses, which would be roughly 10%, however the responses also included people who worked, but did not live, in Bow.

VI. FINAL WORDS

Deb McCann was happy with the survey results, the propagation maps and the possibility that RTT coverage may be better than previously reported. Karri Makinen is looking forward to RTT “flipping the switch” so we can experience the coverage. Dee Treybig said that we are fulfilling the Committee charge and thanked the Committee. Mike Wheeler “ditto’d” all of the above.

VII. SCHEDULE MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 7/8/2024 @ 9 AM.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Karri Makinen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:52 AM, seconded by Mike Wheeler. Motion passed 4-0

Respectfully submitted,

Deb McCann