

**DRAFT Minutes of Beaver Island Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Beaver Island Community School | February 19, 2019 5:00PM**

Present

Wil Cwikiel and Theresa McDonough

Absent

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Neal Green, Garry Conant, Paul Welke

Others Present

Paul Cole, Dick Mulvihill

With 4 committee members present, the meeting began at 5:10 pm.

A quick update from Cwikiel. He had spoken to Donna at the Health Center and the Health Center is in need of an update. Cwikiel spoke with Merit, the school's provider, about sharing bandwidth. They are exploring the possibility of a collaboration between the school, the new county building and the Health Center to improve their entities.

Before McNamara left on vacation, she shared a conversation with Paul Cole concerning discussion that she had with Kevin Shepard, Charlevoix County administrator. Shepard has knowledge about NLEA and would like to share the info with us. Cole would like to reach out to Shepard to see if he is available to come to the island before the March 19 meeting.

Mulvihill has connected with Next Century Cities which is an organization that assists municipalities in building out broadband. Mulvihill was able to gain a list of consultants that could help advise us. NCC checked out our infrastructure and confirmed the island is lacking. There is also a "tool kit" which is recommended to help guide us through the process of building out broadband. It is free to join this organization but the municipality would need to send in application.

The USDA Reconnect program has a deadline of May 31, 2019 for the current application. Much to do and even with assistance it seems doubtful that this deadline for 2019 could be met.

Adjourned at 5:49 pm

Next Meeting Date

The next BITAC Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 5:00PM at the Beaver Island Community School conference room.