

**Draft Minutes of Beaver Island
Telecommunication Advisory Committee Meeting
Peaine and St James Township, Beaver Island
Beaver Island Community School | May 21, 2019 5:00PM**

Present

Kevin Boyle, Kathleen McNamara, Theresa McDonough, Wil Cwikiel, Neal Green, Gary Conant, Paul Cole and Dick Mulvihill

Absent

Paul Welke

Meeting began at 5:05 pm.

April 16, 2019 minutes are approved without objection.

Kevin Boyle presented an update on meeting that he, Mulvihill and McNamara had with Charlevoix County officials. Please see attachment for outline of meeting.

Kevin Boyle and Kitty McNamara had a phone conference with TDS and provided us with an update of their conversation. Please see attachment. Bottom line is that TDS does not have any future plans for GB service or fiber.

Some items to follow up on:

- Could we pursue a private/public partnership?
- We would like to see a service map
- Is there fiber available for use and what's the capacity?
- Could GLE request to use this fiber?

Update on NMU. They are proceeding with their application and Beaver Island will be included. Eric at NMU remains optimistic but we don't have a clear timeline yet. Reconnect fund is for underserved areas only. We need valid info of geographic area showing updated service areas.

With the NMU Reconnect Grant:

The tower on the north end would be the backhaul.

They would to continue to envision the use of other towers if available, Font Lake Tower and ESD tower.

20 x 5 service would be fixed over the island.

Mobile Phone Strategy discussion:

The group discussed various kinds of mobile phone repeater systems and their possible use on the island. Those that could be operated by the community would have limited range and could only act as boosters. So, they would likely be useful only at some key sites where signal is weak, but present. It appears there may be some configuration issues with the AT&T gear on the Font Lake tower. Gary will reach out to contacts to investigate.

Kitty will write letters to both carriers asking them for information on their plans for the island, including 5G, while pointing out that current service is lacking in critical areas.

June Meeting Agenda:

NMU Connection and roadmap. Prepare for joint township meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Next Meeting Date

The next BITAC Meeting will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, June 11th, 2019 at 5:00PM at the Beaver Island Community School conference room.