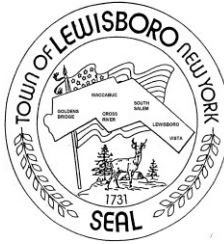


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## **Minutes of the AAB Meeting**

**October 22, 2020**

Meeting was held via Zoom videoconference and called to order by Joseph Neu at 6:33pm

Present: Joseph Neu (Chair), Rob Cummings, Tony Gonçalves (Councilman/Town Board Liaison), Jim Moreo, Brian Porco  
Absent: Neil Berman, Chris Nelson (KLSD Liaison)

### **Approval of Minutes and Housekeeping**

- Chair moved to approve the minutes from the September 22 meeting. Minutes were approved without objection.
- AT&T: follow up on propagation map for public consumption.
- Brian Porco delegated to split carrier follow up with Verizon.

### **Unfinished Business**

- Language for back-up generators in applications for tower installations and renewals.
  - Planning board has sent examples of upcoming renewals as potential vehicle to insert language to incent better back-up capabilities.
  - AAB will continue to do research to find language to recommend.
  - AAB will ask CityScape for language insight.
  - Brian will use knowledge of Vista Firehouse carrier back-up to help with the language recommendation; for example, the best carrier back-up capability might set the benchmark for the others on site or all town sites.
  - Also, Brian will include this in outreach to Verizon, which seems to have the largest back-up facilities/equipment on site. AT&T also has back-up on site, T-Mobile and Sprint do not. One carrier trailers generators in.
- Preparing presentation to Town Board on emerging consensus on tower locations and addressing coverage in Northeastern section of town.
  - AAB discussed how we might help further the cause of connectivity using Town Board meetings in conjunction with the CityScape study.
    - Potential to mention in public comment at next Town Board meeting that CityScape is visiting and the project is underway.
    - Jim and Rob will meet to discuss messaging ideas for a marketing plan.
    - Consideration should be given to whether the AAB can be rebranded to better align with the message and charter.

- Coordinate with CityScape to see when they might present to the Board or the town in other venues.
- Follow up continues with Chris on the KLSD survey: lessons learned and insight.
  - Suggestion was made to ensure respondent location (street/address) and household size (larger households need more bandwidth) is identified if coverage questions are asked.
- AAB discussed preliminary objectives of survey: what people are using to connect to internet, providers, quality of signal in your home, etc.

## **New Business**

- Preparation for CityScape request for information and pending visit to Lewisboro in conjunction with Wireless Telecommunications Infrastructure Master Plan Study for the Northern Westchester County.
  - CityScape had reached out to Tony and Chair and both spoke to representatives from CityScape earlier in the week.
  - A recap of the conversations revealed:
    - CityScape is seeking to visit Lewisboro next week (pending Covid-testing results).
    - Want information about existing infrastructure.
    - Connections to permitting/planning board.
    - Not going to meet with anyone on this trip; will just be visiting current tower sites and related infrastructure; correlates with Task 2: Infrastructure Assessments in the project proposal.
    - Will do test at some point using RF models and any data shared by the carriers.
  - AAB proposed to offer sites suggested to also investigate in addition to the Salt Dome site.
    - Tony will ask Homeland Towers if they have gotten any response on most recent Farvue Farm proposal.
  - Chair will ask CityScape if they will be identifying fiber as part of infrastructure assessment (for backhaul purposes).
- Municipality call with Altice: Tony shared some items from meeting they had with local municipalities last week.
  - On the call, Altice shared a presentation on their network (seeking permission to share publicly).
  - One action item was for them to provide an update on their roll-out of fiber to the home (is it Q4 of next year?); in presentation, they said starting the roll out in next few years (very vague).
- Speaking of Fiber, Tony noted that recent downed wires on Route 35 (near Adams Hill Road) revealed Crown Castle fiber that had to be separately permissioned to restore on the new pole. This is likely fiber for the KLSD backhaul for buildings and to BOCES Lower Hudson Regional Information Center, LHRIC (as presented by Chris Nelson at an earlier meeting).
  - Action item to contact Crown Castle again regarding Fiber infrastructure.

- Tony proposed that AAB look into radio communications for emergency services in town, which has some widely noted gaps.
  - Lewisboro Police Chief David Alfano mentioned the issue in recent budget discussion.
  - AAB will explore how we bring together emergency service constituents to see how we resolve this issue.
  - Brian shared the proposal for Vista firehouse to move its radio antenna onto the cell tower to help fix coverage gaps; funding to do this was approved at the last Town Board Meeting.
    - The fire department would enter in an agreement with the town to use an unused UHF pair of frequencies for this purpose that the town currently owns.
    - This is expected to vastly improve radio coverage in Vista for the Town as well.
    - This is part of a larger Fire District initiative to improve radio coverage.
    - Brian has spoken with Joe Posadas, Deputy Highway Superintendent, who manages the Highway radio system that Lewisboro PD also uses (on VHF).
    - Brian will be the AAB's line of communication to that system as well the PD and Fire District, plus coordinate with the Emergency Preparedness & Management Committee.
    - This is a long-standing issue for the Town, which operates on Westchester County Department of Emergency Services equipment. They are building out a brand-new network as part of a 10-year plan, so the RF coverage of the municipalities are in limbo as that network gets built.
  - This could be something we ask CityScape about (their study for Bedford is in partnership with another consultancy, Federal Engineering, covers both commercial wireless and emergency radio systems coverage, as Bedford is not on the County dispatch system).
    - Presumably wireless coverage and emergency radio coverage are aligned and can be addressed in tandem if emergency radio antennas are sited on new towers.
    - It is also an FCC and funding issue.

### **Polling of the Board and Action Items**

- Meet on marketing ideas and suggest statement for public comment on CityScape project; consider rebranding AAB.
- Get more information on CityScape plans to meet with/address the community.
- Provide CityScape with planning board information.
- Provide CityScape with alternate locations to consider.
- Ask CityScape if fiber infrastructure is part of infrastructure assessment.
- Ask CityScape for input on emergency radio system coverage.
- Follow up with Homeland Towers on status of recent Farvue Farm proposal.
- Look at Vista tower back-up power for a best carrier benchmark to use in back-up power and other language for cell site zoning/permit approvals and

renewals. Reach out to Verizon in conjunction with this. Ask Cityscape if they have recommendation.

- Follow up with Altice on network improvement presentation (what can be shared publicly) and clarification on fiber to home rollout timeline.
- Connect with Crown Castle to get more information on their fiber lines.
- Follow up with AT&T on propagation map.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.