

Woodstock Economic Development Commission

3/29/2016 MEETING

5:30pm – 6:30pm

Town Hall, Woodstock, Vermont

MINUTES – DRAFT

1) Call to order: 6:30pm.

Commission Members Present: Joe DiNatale, Nick Ferro, Keith Anderson, Charlie Kimbell, Tom Weschler. By Telephone: Matt Stover. Absent: Gail Childs, James Zilian, Barry Milstone.

Public: Mica Seeley, Member of the RFI Evaluation Committee.

2) Presentation of Information received in response to the RFI submitted to 5 Telcos in December.

The RFI evaluation committee, comprised of Charlie Kimbell, Tom Weschler, Joe DiNatale and Mica Seeley, reported on their findings. The commission concluded that it was not possible to meet the original objective of extending affordable 1 Gbps broadband service to every home and business by 1/1/2018. (See attached). While the commission had considered hiring a “broadband evangelist” to mount a campaign to demonstrate sufficient demand for the Telcos to invest in Woodstock in the two year window, it was agreed that it was unlikely to be effective in accelerating the timeline of the Telcos or extending the coverage to the two areas.

3) Next Steps:

A motion was made by Tom Weschler and seconded by Charlie Kimbell regarding the next steps: Form a separate group to work with the existing Telcos to aggressively increase internet access speed to the maximum extent possible, and to encourage existing telcos to more effectively market and expand their services.

The motion was passed by voice vote.

Tom Weschler, Joe DiNatale and Mica Seeley volunteered to serve on this group.

4) Adjournment: 6:30pm.