

Winchester Broadband Committee

September 23, 2021, 11:00AM, Winchester Town Hall

Zoom meeting with Lumen Technologies

Present: John Grimmer, Dave Lull, Nancy Johnson, Gary Engstrom, Jim Hochstetter. Ted Hankins - Lumen

Purpose of the meeting was to have Lumen respond to a list of questions that was sent to them. The following is a recap for each question that was answered.

1. How much activity is Lumen engaged in locally: Boulder Junction & PI are both approved grant projects. Phase I in progress for Boulder Junction, Phase 2 next year. No current projects in Michigan and have a Letter of Intent in Indiana. Mentioned that Boulder Junction is a good/feasible project based on the monetary support from the town.
2. Any lessons learned from projects that didn't get funded: yes, lack of community support. Seems if communities ask for a large grant, it appears its not approved.
3. What's the timeline for a project like ours (FTTH) to get off the ground: at least 4-6 months with Lumen: Engineering creates the plan; finance determines the cost and funding. Then approval is needed from the PSC or other funding sources. Ted is not aware of any capacity constraints on their side once funding is approved.
4. What does Lumen need from us to get going?: Ted will bring the project to the Lumen table. They will price it out and get back to us. ARPA funds available to us, we think, is \$40k but Ted will check. Ted will also follow-up with his internal team to find out if any infrastructure work done under CAFII would help move the project ahead more quickly. He indicated he would get back to us by end of next week (October 1) and schedule a meeting.

Post Lumen call discussion:

1. John provided information on an upcoming call "Funding and Implementing Broadband" scheduled for 9/30 at 1:00. He will set-up the video conference at the town hall. All committee members are invited to attend.
2. Dave will do some additional research on project costs with his contacts.
3. We talked about project timeline and what to do next. All agreed that building support for the effort is high priority. Some thoughts were to use Lake Associations, surveys, public meetings. Need to start to nail down some of these actions once we hear more from Lumen. Nancy will find any surveys samples from both local or other broadband projects that would help.