

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

February 9, 2023, an in-person and ZOOM hybrid meeting.

Meeting convened at 6:46 PM and adjourned at 7:29 PM.

BPC members present via ZOOM were Andy Iwaskiewicz, Mary Hysick, and Kathy Marchant; Ken Adams was BPC member present in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office. No adjustments to agenda. Cathy Mander-Adams was present at the Town Clerk's Office as ZOOM meeting host. Members experienced difficulty joining ZOOM as the meeting ID number had been posted incorrectly. It was agreed through consensus that the meeting could continue since the public could call the Town Clerk's Office to obtain the correct ID or the public could attend via the group call line available through ZOOM, which information was posted on the agenda.

Motion by Kathy to accept the minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting as written; second by Mary; motion carried.

Discussion regarding future high-speed internet and cell service in Belvidere:

- Consensus of group that the BPC should compose a letter to Lamoille Fibernet and Mansfield Fiber as was encouraged by our state representatives and Christine Halquist at January's meeting. Ken will write the letter on behalf of the BPC. Said letter will explain Belvidere's need and desire for town-wide high speed internet service and cell phone coverage, and stress that cell phone service depends on high-speed internet to "backhaul" the system's support. Also, any delays in broadband service cause delays in other areas of service.
- Can Mansfield Fiber share an anticipated installation time line for potential customers on the fiberoptic cable already going through most of Belvidere? An increased take rate might accelerate their efforts.
- Mansfield Fiber should be aware that Belvidere is working with our legislators and the CUD and Mac Mountain to have cell phone service – probably through "microcell" installation – following quickly on the heels of "lighting up" our town with broadband.
- Mary shared that an updated CUD representative report was sent on Jan.29th from Carol Caldwell-Edmunds to BPC and SB; Andy read portions of the report to the group.
- Motion by Mary to draft a letter to Christine Halquist to follow up on any progress they have made in reaching out to Mac Mountain regarding microcell phone service in Belvidere; 2nd by Kathy; motion carried

ARPA Advisory Committee updates:

- Mailings to Belvidere residents have been sent out inviting them to offer suggestions to the ARPA committee on ways to spend the Town's ARPA fund allotment. Return of suggestions requested by March 1, 2023. Next ARPA committee on Feb. 23rd.

No mail to process and no other business/public comment.

Motion to adjourn at 7:29 PM by Kathy, second by Mary; motion carried

Next regular meeting scheduled **March 9, 2023, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.