

GCET

GREENFIELD COMMUNITY ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
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GCET BOC Minutes September 26, 2024

Meeting Called to Order: 6:00pm
Location: GCET Conference Room & Hybrid
Present at 324 Main: Tim Farrell, David Russell, Jen Stromsten, Cathy Marcum
Also Present: John Lunt, William St. Denis, Fern Smith, Erin Anhalt, Stella Chan, Anthony Cammalleri (Recorder)

Topics

- Introduction and welcome for new Board member Cathy Marcum
- Public Comment
 - Stephanie Duclos comments
 - Thank you for allowing public comment and glad that meetings are online and available to the public.
- Introduction to Board of new Greenfield Chief of Staff Erin Anhalt
 - Fern to work as liaison to Erin
- Update on North Build status
 - Mayor has made approx. \$106k of ARPA money available for North Build
 - Fern gives update on Comcast and working towards their invoice for Make Ready work
 - GCET has received licenses from Verizon, but still make ready work to be completed by Comcast.
 - Working towards getting an invoice and start times for work from Comcast.
 - Question from Commissioner Goodwin about licenses being in perpetuity, answer is yes, once licenses are issued there are smaller annual fees but no more make ready.
 - Progress for conduit as a contract was awarded for conduit to be placed on Leyden Rd. under high tension wires.
- Review of discussions with Mayor as to returning \$305K taken from GCET ARPA account.
 - Fern met with Erin and the Mayor and communicated how important this money was to GCET
 - No resolution yet.
 - Review of legal situation regarding municipal space, when municipalities lost in court in 2019-2020, make ready became due.
 - John L. says return of money is necessary
 - Stella C. says citizens want broadband, questions how best to do it. Questions if the \$305K is best spent at GCET or elsewhere.
 - Fern S. says GCET is best use for ARPA and that it was already allocated and encumbered.

- Long discussion about working together, oversight authority and use of funds (full transcript available on GCTV with the meeting recording)
- Discussion with the City to continue
- GAP Grant update
 - GCET is only MLP in Massachusetts to be awarded GAP grant monies.
 - GCET is currently reviewing final contract with MBI
 - Fern S. comments that we all need to be clear the make ready portion of the GAP grant is separate from what the ARPA money needs to pay for and GAP money cannot be used to replace ARPA money. People should have no misconceptions about that.
 - Contract review should be about a week and we anticipate no problems signing.
- Residential Retrofit Update
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 - Short review
 - Awarded the Retrofit grant.
 - Necessary to bring internet to older buildings because cost to retrofit is so high.
 - Reviewing final contract
- Next meeting Date?
 - Difficult period for Commissioner availability. John L. asks for each commissioner to send him their schedules to try to find a meeting date. Doodle poll to follow.

Motion to adjourn by David R., Seconded by Cathy M. – Vote in favor was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:12pm