

BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN PARK
Technology Advisory Committee

Minutes

October 7, 2021

7:00 PM

The meeting was held in person at the Borough Building and by Zoom.

Roll Call

Craig Dean
Nate Dufresne
Matt Garland (Chair)
Annie Graziani
Cathy Poole (Vice Chair)
Andy Nock
John Park
Luke Myslinski

Old Business

Minutes of the September 2 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Wilkeson requested revisions to the summary of his concerns and comments. Minutes were approved as amended.

New Business

Meeting with Verizon, September 9, 2021

Jim Rickard reviewed the potential for small cells

- Small cell option – equivalent to coverage of the macro site (golf course)
- 35 ft electric utility poll, with antenna and radio equipment on top of it
 - Requires utilities and back-up power
- Proposal does not take into account zoning, right of ways
- 33 poles along streets and major roads
- 23 of 33 poles are in locations that do not have right of ways for overhead utilities
- PA set 5G small cell regulations – attachment fees, standards for heights, etc.
- Cost – 1 macro site = to 4 small cells. Equivalent to 8 times the cost
- Co-location is theoretically possible with small cells but it is extremely difficult to get 2 carriers on a small cell pole
- Verizon RF engineering concerned about this option due to lack of overhead right of ways.

- Verizon responded to a question about the future of cell towers indicating that macro sites are not going away in the foreseeable future. Small cells are supplementary solutions.
- Community members voiced concern about noise pollution from diesel generator if a monopole is placed on the golf course. They asked for a map of the proposed location.
- There was discussion about the possibility of an independent engineering study to determine potential solutions for cellular service issues
- Discussion about potential grant funding

Meeting with SBA September 22

- Exploring the option for multiple (3-5) small poles (75 ft.)
 - Poles have space for 2.5 carriers
 - Franklin Park radio repeaters would be the 0.5 tenant
- Another option is a private Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) that would allow for some communications around the borough
- Potential to consolidate internet service being paid for by the borough. This is a potential cost savings.
 - SBA has an EDGE POP group that will help with identifying opportunities to take advantage of internet consolidation
- SBA suggested if the school district can be rolled into the project they may be able to access funds from the American Rescue program
- SBA will be getting back to Andy with more information

NASD Propagation Study

- NASD is having issues with radio communication and is considering increasing the height of their tower at NASH.
- This could be an opportunity to place a radio repeater
- Andy has requested a copy of the propagation study that was done

Allegheny County Communications

- The county has funding to improve 2-way radio communication overall but no plan has been shared
- Franklin Park should proceed with their own plan for 2-way radio communication until the county has solid plans

Conclusions and Next Steps

- Cellular communication and 2-way radio communication should be 2 separate projects. At this point it seems as though they will require different solutions.
- Andy to circle back with Lattamus Communication to initiate a propagation study for Franklin Park 2-way communication
- Andy to contact NASD again to share propagation study
- Review any additional information from SBA and Verizon

Good and Welfare

None

The next meeting is November 4, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the meeting room at the Franklin Park Borough Building. A Zoom meeting will also be available.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Poole
Vice Chair

DRAFT