

Town of Goshen

Broadband Advisory Committee Regular Meeting for September 15, 2022

This meeting was held in person at Town Hall as well as on Zoom. This meeting is also available to be reviewed as a recording.

In attendance: Commission members: Scott Olson (zoom), Marc McCarthy, Peter Kujawski, Gary Stango; and guest and new Goshen resident, Burt Cohen

- a) The meeting was called to order by Marc McCarthy at 5:05
- b) Prior minutes were noted as approved unanimously
- c) Old Business
 1. Marc reminded the BAC that the submission deadline for the next Town Topics is Nov 21 and will be mailed out on Dec 9. They should be kept to 1 page if possible.
 2. Marc introduced a guest and new neighbor, Burt Cohen to the commission. Burt serves as the Broadband Policy Coordinator for the state of CT within the Office of Consumer Counsel (part of Public Utilities Regulatory Authority – PURA). Burt provided a brief professional background and description of his role at the OCC.
 3. Marc noted that Esme Lombard had called briefly before the start of the meeting providing a short update but apologizing for not being able to attend this meeting but will attend our next meeting in October.
 4. Marketing – See New Business below
- d) New Business
 1. Update regarding Altice construction. Marc also provided pictures to the BAC regarding cabinet sites and an installed cabinet(s) in Cornwall and marked locations in Goshen and Litchfield.
 2. Marc & Gary provided synopsis from the 9/8 CATV meeting: actual build out discussion was limited; meeting largely focused on pricing and customer servicing/connectivity and installation issues, including the future of cable and wireless.
 3. Commission discussed what information to provide residents (and possible recommendations) once we begin to receive Altice marketing material.
 4. BAC discussion of competitors Frontier and GoNetSpeed; not sure whether either will compete with Altice for Goshen customers.

5. Marc provided update (with input from Burt) as to Sharon and other town progress (i.e., GoNetSpeed in Watertown), including ARPA funds (Sharon) and mesh wifi proposals and progress in Litchfield.
6. Short discussion of Altice change in senior management including addition of new CEO from Comcast and transition of current CEO to executive chairman.

e) Public Advocacy

1. As is usual during meetings, BAC discussed how best to serve the residents of Goshen (e.g., what residents may want and how best to provide information requests from Goshen residents). Burt provided update as to how OCC hopes to be able to assist residents with service and process questions, complaint process, mapping same, etc., but admitted that OCC services are in infancy stage. Marc also discussed possibilities regarding Altice (and other cable provider) management potential to limit/exit traditional cable markets and what that may translate into vis-à-vis streaming services.

f) Public Comment – None

g) The meeting was adjourned at 5:59



Peter Kujawski

Received Sept. 21, 2022 @ 3:33 PM

Attest Barbara Z. Bueh
Goshen Town Clerk

Litchfield Altice FTTH

Town Leadership Organizational Meeting

optimum. optimum  fiber


altice

March 9, 2022

Litchfield Optimum Towns Benefit from Sharing Information

Very positive strategic decision by AlticeUSA to deploy fiber in our area – Information will be hard to come by

- AlticeUSA has made large corporate strategic shift to fiber - CT makes up 27% of incremental FTTH passings in 2022 or 300,000 homes within overall budget of ~\$1.75 billion.
- May represent one of the largest private company infrastructure investments in the region in many years. Estimated at ~\$50 million^a, the 8 Towns within Litchfield County will see service upgrades in calendar 2022 setting them apart from the many other rural areas in CT
- Individual town leaderships lack a technical background, but all have similar questions - Need a collaborative platform to share information among towns and ultimately with their residents – Broad adoption of fiber is a win-win for AlticeUSA and for our residents
- Need to encourage / expedite town land-use reviews, help get questions addressed to allow for construction to begin – am told some towns have been more receptive than others.
- Basic objective is to inform, support and educate...ultimately better utilize Altice management resources to streamline their construction and marketing process.
- Learning/sharing how they have launched this service in other parts of CT should serve as a benchmark for what to expect.
- This group is not a technical network resource – rather consumer advocacy / education

Critical infrastructure investment to our region

AlticeUSA strategy should benefit from reduced churn, increased take-rate and possibly housing growth

- Cannot underscore enough the positive impact this investment should have to our region
- For cities like Torrington, Watertown it will level the playing field with other parts of CT to draw investment and jobs.....
-whereas rural areas will be fundamentally differentiated to draw housing demand vs other nearby towns in NW CT..... This may last for years as others are reluctant to upgrade
- Will ultimately be a small part of AlticeUSA's overall \$1.75 billion spending plan in 2022 to add 1.1 million new fiber passings – but ~\$50 million in our area is significant!

If they can do it for less, great!

- OptimumMobile (wireless) to be a key part of the new offering.....

	House holds •	Road miles •	\$1,000 per connect	\$1,500 per connect	\$40,000 per mile	\$75,000 per mile
Torrington	16,911	204	\$16,911,000	\$25,366,500	\$8,160,000	\$15,300,000
Watertown	8,513	150 ^b	\$8,513,000	\$12,769,500	\$6,000,000	\$11,250,000
Litchfield	4,137	148	\$4,137,000	\$6,205,500	\$5,920,000	\$11,100,000
Thomaston	3,157	60 ^b	\$3,157,000	\$4,735,500	\$2,400,000	\$4,500,000
Goshen	1,679	85	\$1,679,000	\$2,518,500	\$3,400,000	\$6,375,000
Morris	1,290	46	\$1,290,000	\$1,935,000	\$1,840,000	\$3,450,000
Cornwall	1,043	81	\$1,043,000	\$1,564,500	\$3,240,000	\$6,075,000
Warren	845	50	\$845,000	\$1,267,500	\$2,000,000	\$3,750,000
Total	37,575	824	\$37,575,000	\$56,362,500	\$32,960,000	\$61,800,000
			Average Estimate		Average Estimate	
			\$46,968,750		\$47,380,000	

a) as reported by NW Connect in their June 2020 report, Thomaston & Watertown reflect 2019 census data

b) estimated

Cabinet locations have been communicated as the start

Gating item for construction plans to be initiated – sooner the better to get questions addressed

- Notification and dialogue underway on an individual town basis
- Land-use officials should be engaged with AlticeUSA directly and working through town planning and zoning process to secure approvals for work to commence.
- This group cannot assist individual town needs other than to encourage direct dialogue with Altice to get questions answered, adjustments made, and final locations adopted
- Power backups is on everyone's minds – Area is prone to extended outages
 - Beyond the fact that each cabinet will have battery backups for 6hrs is not enough information.
 - Have been advised will be support by mobile generator infrastructure to support in case of extended power outage but prefer specific details to build confidence among area residents and establish expectations.
- Plan to utilize Altice management resources effectively to get collective questions addressed and allow for an efficient dialogue.

Latest Comments from CEO – Encouraging and consistent

https://morganstanley.webcasts.com/viewer/event.jsp?ei=1533870&tp_key=2d51becb48

Notes from Tuesday, March 8 - CEO presentation at Morgan Stanley TMT Conference

- Plans to reaccelerate growth announced - +1.3mm in 2022, 1.6mm in 2023, 1.6mm in 2024
- Buildout mobile offering – MVNO partnership w T-Mobile, more to be announced soon / aggressive (possibly bundling unlimited mobile data with a fixed fiber offering)
- AlticeUSA operates within one of largest overbuilt areas (75% w Verizon/Frontier) - critical to be aggressive
- Address customer service issues – reduce opex – push migration and accelerate end if 2Q as mutually beneficial – stats aren't lying....address existing CT investigation into poor customer service
 - 30% less instance rates (customer complaints), Altice Europe sister companies seeing 50% less instance rates for existing HFC networks so anticipate this to grow, fundamentally cheaper and simply to operate - 55% better Net Promoter Scores
 - 6-8% higher ARPU (some related to demographics), people who go to fiber buy more (i.e. OTT, video, etc) reflecting customer choice based on better experience, ultimately churn rates are 3-4% better
- Spending plan through 2025 and gross profit growth
- Took over mid 2021 – flat lining operation – Changed positioning Sept2021 to be more price aggressive
- 75% of footprint to be fiberized as ROI is justified – uneconomic in parts of western footprint (lower density)
- Skip DOCSIS 4.0 technology being adopted by some others – too expensive to justify relative to fiber
- Network wide costs \$600/home passed (ex install estimated at \$300) – presume somewhat higher for rural Litchfield county – hope to see take rates above 50%
- Plan to bid on subsidy homes and accelerate rate of buildout – Anticipate costs of \$2,000-\$3,000 per home after subsidies – this is largely outside area within Suddenlink footprint in underserved areas

AVNO – Mobile virtual network operator

AlticeUSA is a public subsidiary of Altice Europe which is one of the largest cable/telecom operators in Europe

Pricing / Marketing Appears Encouraging – No Change?

Most price checks suggest they are maintaining a common aggressive pricing strategy through the region

- Altice is competing aggressively with Verizon FIOS in Westchester with aggressive prices / prepaid Visa cards/HBO Max worth upwards of \$200-\$300 depending on level of service
- Marketing/pricing is the same in areas they've recently upgraded to FTTH in Bridgeport, Blackrock, Norwalk & Darien without overlapping competition allowing customers to upgrade with limited to no upfront cost (rates available only to "new" customers) - Encouraging
- Expect marketing materials to be released to Litchfield area possibly this summer and rolling through 2023
 - We should encourage residents to adopt
- AlticeUSA is sensitive to competitive pressures and prospective new entrants in the area – this explains their pricing strategy and they should realize (a) higher take-rates, (b) lower churn and (c) lower operating costs – truly a win-win for customers/operator

X

Update your address

Street Address *
25 ELM STREET

Apt./Suite

City
DARIEN

State
Connecticut

ZIP Code *
06820

v

Continue

1 New residential customers only

**READ THE
FINE PRINT**

Next Steps...

- Send questions and/or answers to aggregate and share answers in a collaborative live document
- Will prepare an aggregate FAQs with answers that can be (a) shared with residents and (b) addressed by AlticeUSA management
- Follow-up call with AlticeUSA within next few weeks with management from engineering and marketing to address more specifics regarding 2022 deployment
- Create shared educational resources for residents and town officials to guide residents in the transition of linear (cable) TV to unbundled over the top (OTT) offerings.

An example of Altice marketing in Westchester NY

These are targeting new customers or Verizon Fios customers (which I am). \$30/mo for symmetrical fiber including \$200 Visa card, HBO Max (\$15/mo) for 3 mos, free Wifi extender and free installation. Netting this over 12 months, it works out to be \$19.58/mo with the hidden required modem rental (\$10/mo)

optimum.

PROPOSAL

11897679

DATE: 3/6/2022

INTERNET SERVICE UPDATE

300 Mbps Fiber Internet

Better service at a better price than Verizon's Fios.

\$29.99/mo

Features:

- \$200 Visa Prepaid Card
- HBO Max included on us for 3 months
- FREE Wifi Extender for whole home coverage
- FREE installation when you order online

Need more speed? Upgrade to Optimum 1 Gig Fiber Internet for only \$49.99 a month and save 40% over Verizon Fios!

Call 866.580.0460 or visit optimum.com/savings today.

	per mo	months	Total Annual Cost
Subscription cost	\$29.99	12	\$360
Modem cost	\$10.00	12	\$120
HBO Max	\$14.99	3	(\$45)
Visa Card			(\$200)
Net subscription cost	\$19.58	12	\$235

Get more and save with Optimum 1 Gig Fiber Internet

	optimum fiber	fios*
Price for 1 Gig Fiber Internet	\$49.99/mo.	\$89.99/mo.
Download/upload speeds	940/940 Mbps	940/800 Mbps
\$200 Prepaid Card to use anywhere	✓	✗
HBO Max™ included on us for 1 year!	✓	✗
FREE Optimum Stream	✓	✗
Save up to \$15/mo. on Fiber Internet with Optimum Mobile	✓	✗
2 million+ FREE WiFi hotspots	✓	✗
"Best Gigabit Deal" - CNET May 2021	✓	✗

Internet + Mobile = Savings

Combine Internet and Mobile to save up to \$30/mo.

Call 866.580.0460 or visit optimum.com/savings.

Existing Offering in Litchfield area (new customers)



Pick your Internet Speed

Plan Name	Speed	Price	Features
Optimum 100	Up to 100 Mbps downloads	\$19.99/mo.	Smart WiFi 5 with intelligent coverage
Optimum 300	Up to 300 Mbps downloads	\$39.99/mo.	Smart WiFi 5 with intelligent coverage 1200 Year* Prepaid Card 3 months* Included on all
Optimum 500	Up to 500 Mbps downloads	\$59.99/mo.	Smart WiFi 6 with intelligent coverage 1200 Year* Prepaid Card 6 months* Included on all
Optimum 1 Gig	Up to 940 Mbps downloads	\$79.99/mo.	Get Optimum Stream FREE & enjoy 50+ channels, apps & more Smart WiFi 6 with intelligent coverage 1200 Year* Prepaid Card 12 months* Included on all
Optimum Basic	50+ channels		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD ✓ 50+ channels including all major networks
Optimum Core	220+ channels		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD ✓ 220+ channels including TNT, HGTV & ESPN
Optimum Select	340+ channels		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD ✓ 340+ channels including Nick Jr, DIY Network & CMT
Optimum Premier	420+ channels		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD ✓ 420+ channels including HBO Max, Starz & Showtime

Fiber Internet Offering in Westchester, NY & Fairfield, CT



Pick your Internet Speed

Flexibility	Speed	Price	Features
<input type="radio"/>	Fiber Internet 100 Up to 100 Mbps downloads	\$19.99/mo.	Smart WiFi 6 with intelligent coverage
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Fiber Internet 300 Up to 300 Mbps downloads	\$29.99/mo.	Smart WiFi 6 with intelligent coverage New Customers (excludes \$10/mo modem rental) VISA + HBO + MOVX 1200 Year* Prepaid Card 3 months included on int.
<input type="radio"/>	Fiber Internet 500 Up to 500 Mbps downloads	\$39.99/mo.	Smart WiFi 6 with intelligent coverage VISA + HBO + MOVX 1200 Year* Prepaid Card 6 months included on int.
<input type="radio"/>	Fiber Internet 1 Gig Up to 940 Mbps downloads	\$49.99/mo.	Get Optimum Stream FREE & enjoy 50+ channels, apps & more Smart WiFi 6 with intelligent coverage VISA + HBO + MOVX 1200 Year* Prepaid Card 12 months included on int.
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum Basic 50+ channels		50+ channels including CBS, FOX, TNT, news12, etc.
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum Core 220+ channels		220+ channels including ESPN, SNY, HGTV, nick, etc.
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum Select 340+ channels		340+ channels including STARZ, HLN, nbcu, FX NETWORKS, etc.
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum Premier 420+ channels		420+ channels including SHOWTIME, HBO, STARZ, Outdoor, etc.
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum TV 50+ channels including all major networks		Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD 50+ channels including all major networks
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum TV 220+ channels including TNT, HGTV & ESPN		Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD 220+ channels including TNT, HGTV & ESPN
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum TV 340+ channels including Nick Jr, DIY Network & CMT		Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD 340+ channels including Nick Jr, DIY Network & CMT
<input type="radio"/>	Optimum TV 420+ channels including HBO Max, Starz & Showtime		Voice activated remote & 4K Ultra HD 420+ channels including HBO Max, Starz & Showtime

Same prices for Optimum TV

What will pricing be for existing customers?

Sounds like it will be basically the same with no installation charges which is quite encouraging

- New customers (i.e. those who have not had service for >45 days) are eligible to \$200 VISA prepaid gift cards, varying periods of HBO Max^a, free installation & WiFi extender
- New customer pricing reflects a \$5 per month discount with auto-pay / paperless billing but does NOT include \$10 per month required modem rental
- Call to customer service suggested to request fiber - existing customers have not been assessed installation charges but we shall see what is offered.....must be scheduled to install ONT (new “modem”) which is combined with router
- Representative suggested after surcharges and equipment costs, existing customer prices should be relatively similar to what prior HFC customers were paying
- Sounds very encouraging – Strategy maybe to increase the regional take rate given the increased rate of customers cutting the cord? Video offerings will remain on decline

a) HBO Max costs \$11.99 per month (AdFree) but is often discounted. Also offered AdFree for \$149.99 if 12 months are prepaid

Fine Print – Details of the Offer in Other Markets

-ER for new Optimum residential customers. Rates are subject to change at any time with advanced notice. Advertised price reflects \$5 discount for enrolling in Auto Pay & Paperless Billing, must maintain both to p discount. Former Optimum accounts previous not in good standing or have disconnected service within past 30 days or for seasonal move not eligible. Acct with unpaid bill offer due date is not in good standing. er is not transferable, may not be combined w/other offers, is limited to advertised level of service., and is not available in all areas. Other terms, restrictions & conditions apply.

IG INTERNET: Speeds, prices & availability vary by area. Up to 940 Mbps download/up to 940 Mbps upload.

) MBPS INTERNET: Up to 500 Mbps download/up to 500 Mbps upload.

) MBPS INTERNET: Up to 300 Mbps download/up to 300 Mbps upload. Advertised speed for wired connection. Actual speeds may vary & are not guaranteed, see optimum.com/speedfactors for more info.

JIP & TAXES: Free standard installation with online orders. Modem-lease will be charged \$10.00 a month. Free Smart Router available with leased modem. Limit 1 router per household. Taxes & equip. charges will added to bill, and are subject to change during and after promotion period. Min system req's & equip configs apply.

) MAX™. Customer must maintain promotion and remain in good standing with no past due or returned payments throughout promotional period to maintain included HBO MAX™. HBO MAX is \$14.99/mo. after notional period. HBO MAX is used under license. Use of HBO Max is subject to its own terms and conditions, see hbo.com/terms-of-use for details.

A REWARD CARD: Offer is not available to individuals who have previously participated in an Optimum Visa® Reward Card promotion within the past 12 months. Visa Reward Card will be mailed to customers who intain promotion and remain in good standing with no past due or returned payments throughout first 90 days offer account activation. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. Limit 1 per customer. Visa Reward Card cannot used to pay Optimum monthly bill. Card value expires in 12 mos. Visa Reward Card may be used when making purchases from merchants in the U.S. and District of Columbia everywhere Visa debit cards are epted. No ATM access. Terms and Conditions apply to Reward Cards. See Cardholder Agreement for details. Visa Reward Card is issued by MetaBank® N.A., Member FDIC pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc.

s optional offer is not a MetBank product or service nor does MetBank endorse this offer. Card is distributed and serviced by InComm Financial Services, Inc., which is licensed as a Money Transmitter by the New k State Department of Financial Services.

VTRACT BUYOUT: Must provide copy of bill from competing provider, in same name and at same address, showing early termination fee (ETF) amount and that you were an active customer with the competitor at e of sale without a past due balance. Bill may be submitted by email to CompetitorProof@alticeusa.com. Once all documents are received, you will receive a bill credit covering ETF amount up to max of \$100 within weeks provided account is maintained in good standing.

DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE: 60-day money-back guarantee is only for the monthly fee. Optimum must be contacted within first 60 days of service to receive full refund.

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ymnet 100 Mbps

-ER for new Optimum residential customers. Rates are subject to change at any time with advanced notice. Advertised price reflects \$5 discount for enrolling in Auto Pay & Paperless Billing, must maintain both to p discount. Former Optimum accounts previous not in good standing or have disconnected service within past 30 days or for seasonal move not eligible. Acct with unpaid bill offer due date is not in good standing. er is not transferable, may not be combined w/other offers, is limited to advertised level of service., and is not available in all areas. Other terms, restrictions & conditions apply.

) MBPS INTERNET: Advertised speed for wired connection. Up to 100 Mbps download/up to 100 Mbps upload. Actual speeds may vary & are not guaranteed, see optimum.com/speedfactors for more info.

JIP & TAXES: Free standard installation with online orders. Modem-lease will be charged \$10.00 a month. Free Smart Router available with leased modem. Limit 1 router per household. Taxes & equip. charges will added to bill, and are subject to change during and after promotion period. Min system req's & equip configs apply.

VTRACT BUYOUT: Must provide copy of bill from competing provider, in same name and at same address, showing early termination fee (ETF) amount and that you were an active customer with the competitor at e of sale without a past due balance. Bill may be submitted by email to CompetitorProof@alticeusa.com. Once all documents are received, you will receive a bill credit covering ETF amount up to max of \$100 within weeks provided account is maintained in good standing.

DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE: 60-day money-back guarantee is only for the monthly fee. Optimum must be contacted within first 60 days of service to receive full refund.

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ADD ON

ymnet & Basic TV, Internet & Core TV, Internet & Select TV, Internet & Premier TV

-ER for new Optimum residential customers with eligible Internet plan. Rates are subject to change at any time with advanced notice. Advertised price reflects \$5 discount for enrolling in Auto Pay & Paperless Billing. st maintain both to keep discount. Former Optimum accounts previous not in good standing or have disconnected service within past 30 days or for seasonal move not eligible. Account with unpaid bill offer due date ot in good standing. Offer is not transferable, may not be combined w/other offers, is limited to advertised level of service, and is not available in all areas. Other terms, restrictions & conditions apply.

oIC TV: TV add on not available with 20 Mbps Internet plans or lower. HDTV & HD set-top box required for HD service. Number of TV channels, HD channels & features depend on package type & location. All service's hannels may not be available in all areas.

JIP & TAXES: Free standard installation. First set top box is included, additional equipment will be charged at regular monthly rates. Cable boxes are needed for each TV. Taxes & equip. charges will be added to bill, t are subject to change during and after promotion period. Minimum system requirements & equip configs apply. Phone is optional for additional \$10/mo.

DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE: 60-day money-back guarantee is only for the monthly fee. Optimum must be contacted within first 60 days of service to receive full refund.

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