

**UTILITY ADVISORY TASK FORCE
MEETING MINUTES
June 23, 2021 - 7:00 PM
Warren Craft Meeting Room**

The mission of the Utility Advisory Task Force is to assess the level of communication and service from the utility companies providing services to Bernards Township, identify areas of concern and in need of improvement, suggest ways to collect and report chronic outages and disruptions, facilitate and/or coordinate resident feedback to the Board of Public Utilities, and represent Bernards Township customers before the BPU when appropriate.

Present: Edelstein (by phone), Guibord, Romano, Shah

Absent: Estrin, Fields, Fischer, Monaco, Neiman

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Flag Salute**
- 3. Open Public Meeting Statement**
- 4. Approval of Minutes**

The May 19, 2021, meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

5. Change in Membership

Mr. Guibord reported that Michael Robina resigned from the task force due to commitment conflicts.

6. Resident Survey Update

Mr. Guibord reported that Mr. Fischer needs a digital list of the street names and a street map of The Hills in order to identify which Optimum customers who completed the survey reside there. Mr. Guibord will request that through Mr. Estrin. The members discussed how the data from the survey should be sorted/filtered and developed a detailed diagram and methodology for analyzing the 471 survey responses. Ms. Shah suggested thresholds to use for download and upload speeds to group results. She reiterated that a primary purpose of the survey is to determine if residents are not receiving the level of service they are paying for. Ms. Shah acknowledged that the recent splitting of the nodes in The Hills did improve her service slightly. She added that residents of The Hills in the past had spoken to Optimum about installing fiber optic wiring and that Optimum had indicated it would consider doing that.

7. Task Force Report

Mr. Guibord referred to the Task Force Report which had been previously provided to, and reviewed by, all Resident Members. The Resident Members approved the Task Force Report. Mr. Guibord said that the Township Committee understands that this Task Force Report is a progress report on what the Task Force has done thus far; and that any findings and recommendations to the Township Committee would be made in a subsequent report. The Task Force

Report will be converted to a PDF and sent out to the Township Committee members.

8. Public Comment

None

9. July Meeting Agenda

A PSE&G representative will make a presentation to the Task Force at the July 21 meeting.

10. Comments by Members

Ms. Shah suggested that whenever Verizon presents to the Task Force, we inquire about 5G and fiber optic installations in Bernards Township.

11. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Submitted by Scott Guibord

On behalf of the Utility Advisory Task Force