

**Capitol Preservation and Restoration Commission**  
**November 14, 2006 Meeting Minutes**  
**Capitol Room 103**

Members Present: Representative Emil "Buddy" Altobello, Benny Auger, Sen. Joseph Crisco, Jr., James Fleming, Lorraine Guilmartin, Charles Higgins, Sally Martin, John Ruffalo

Members Not Present: Raymond Collins, Jr., Robert Harris, Jr., Dr. Walter Woodward

Others Present: Ron Bianca, Eric Connery, Liz Conroy, D'Ann Mazzocca, Tina Mohr, Tim Putnam, Halestar, LLC – Steve Brown, Kevin Dowd, Dave Rodriguez

Lorraine Guilmartin called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Lorraine welcomed new member, Sally Martin, to the Commission.

Eric Connery introduced Ron Bianca, Director of Information Technology Services, who began the presentation on the introduction of wireless services to the Capitol and Legislative Office Building. The goal of the wireless plan is to serve the members of the Connecticut General Assembly by increasing access points and allowing members to move between the buildings without losing network connectivity. Non-legislative employees would be able to use the wireless network to get access to the Internet. They would need their own account with an internet service provider. The system will give them "guest" access without compromising data security. The wireless footprint would cover the two buildings, the walkway outside (terrace), but not the raised walkway. Through the RFP process, we received seven good proposals. We selected the vendor that works best with our wired system and uses the smallest platform. The grounds are not intended to be part of the installation, but there may be some bleed-through immediately outside of the walls.

Ron asked the Commission for approval to proceed with the installation based on the presentation to follow by Halestar, LLC. He introduced Kevin Dowd of Halestar, LLC, who explained how the wireless system would be deployed, as per the attached PowerPoint presentation. The central controller hardware balances the power, regulates interference and monitors users. Halestar proposes to provide sufficient density of access points to provide overlap if one area goes down. The challenge will be the Capitol Building with its stone, brick and plaster. They completed a site survey with floor plans to plan where new drops (network connections) should be made. All six floors were studied and challenge areas were noted and presented to the Commission.

Kevin Dowd was asked if the wireless implementation would eliminate the need for wires. It will not, as the system quality degrades as more users are added. It is preferred that a laptop user utilizes the wire connections when possible. The wireless system is helpful in areas where there are not enough wired connections, and where connectivity would be lost because someone is moving around. Ron Bianca added that once the wireless system is installed, we can review the wire placement to see if any existing wires can be removed.

Ron Bianca stated that monitors would not be placed in the Executive Branch offices of the Capitol. They have their own phone and network systems. We do not provide any of these services to them now.

Kevin Dowd reviewed placement of the access point transmitters. On all floors, access points will be placed in corners where wiring already exists, especially in common areas near wall plates, snack

machines and exit signs. They will be placed in offices under tables, and some under floors. The Old Judiciary Room would be wired from underneath. Room 310 placement would need to be discussed, as it is not possible for installation from below. Halestar does have a carpenter on staff who would work to place the access points in a non-visible area. Placement would be in the dais in the Senate Chamber, with nothing visible. Antennas could also be painted if necessary. In the vestibules, it is preferable for the access points to be placed up high, and Halestar would work to place near or within the existing speaker cabinets. The basement has dense linear spaces where mounting in the false ceiling would be adequate.

For the House Chamber, the recommended location for the access point is the ledge behind the curtain between the microphone jacks and the camera to allow for leverage into the gallery. Some discussion ensued regarding this placement. It was decided that this area would be reviewed more closely.

Kevin Dowd was asked if there were risks associated with wireless implementation. He responded that wireless is more secure because of encryption and its ability to disable rogues (unsanctioned devices). The system controller will be located in the secure wiring closet and will have redundancy.

Representative Altobello asked if some of the outdated jacks that have been compromised could be identified for removal. Eric Connery stated that he would review repairing certain areas at the December 6, 2006 Commission meeting.

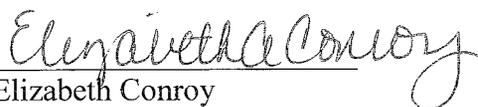
The Commission members declined a tour of the building to view the intended wireless installation areas.

Lorraine Guilmartin asked for a motion to accept the report as presented and approve the locations as proposed. The motion was accepted by acclamation.

Senator Crisco asked for an update on the location of the silverware collection. He also asked if it was possible to identify any publications related to the State Capitol. Eric Connery stated that we would try to have a list made available at the next Commission meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

  
Eric Connery

  
Elizabeth Conroy