

Shutesbury Broadband Committee			
11.18.2020		5:30 PM EST	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress		
Minutes	Jim Hemingway		
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress Frank Citino <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Stocker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ayers Hall <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kent Whitney
Other	Becky Torres, Town Administrator		
Approved minutes for 10/21/2020			

Hut Report: Graeme: Flipped HVAC units once again; Graeme also probed the security system to see if it was working OK. Graeme will work with Tim Otto at Crocker to work on the security system alerts such as smoke and temperature alarms to be sure Crocker promptly gets these alerts and is able to act on them.

We still do not have an invoice from Tri-Wire to be submitted to the insurance company for late October repairs on January Hills Rd. Jim and Graeme will be called by Crocker if a report concerning down trees needs to be taken care of so that they can provide chainsaw work in particular on downed trees that would otherwise stall our ability to initiate a repair. Gayle also had some questions as to whether the Montague Road repair has been properly completed since there are huge coils of fiber still attached to the poles. Crocker's Tim Otto will check with Tri-Wire about this repair.

Steve's financial report: \$124,331 is the current balance in our account. Income is roughly \$39,500 a month, no change there. Steve is concerned about the outstanding invoices for all the repairs that have been done to date which we have not received. It is difficult to estimate what our repair budget should be if we don't get these invoices in a timely manner.

Gayle noted that Tri-Wire has run into trouble with the State for misclassifying workers by labelling some pole workers as ground workers and had to pay a fine plus make some wage adjustments. By state law we have to monitor our contractors to some degree when it comes to worker's wages to be sure that the appropriate wage rates are applied correctly. Tri-Wire claimed it was an honest mistake of misclassification and promptly paid the wages and fine without contesting. We will need to monitor wage reports going forward – Gayle will do.

Gayle's meetings with Tim Otto at Crocker are going well. Gayle is getting copies of all Crocker dispatches which will be helpful. Our inventory of spare parts is now better than it was a month ago – 10 new replacement ONTs have arrived, as well as some new additional drop cables. Sertex, rather than Tri-Wire, will be hired by Crocker to do some of the installations that have been waiting for as long as six months due to lack of parts for these drops that Tri-Wire was unable to follow through on because they didn't have the necessary drop cables to do these installations.

The ShutesburyNet subscriber survey that has been in the works this fall will go out next week. It will come from/be sent out by Shutesbury Broadband rather than Crocker.

A lawyer recently spoke to Gayle about the Surety Bond issue – an encouraging sign, though there were two things Gayle has to do – an affidavit verifying Gayle's position as ShutesburyNet's MLP manager as well as copies of all the license agreements we currently have with vendors, along with some notarized papers as well. Gayle will wait until our Town Clerk, Grace Bannasch, gets her notary stamp before completing this part of the task.

Gayle spoke to John Lunt, the MLP manager of Greenfield's municipal network. He wants to bring all the MLP managers together to work on issues they all share like the Surety Bond issue and others that would be beneficial to all those managing municipal networks.

Towns currently building their networks in Western Massachusetts have take-rates in the 70-85% range according to reports from WiredWest. New Salem currently has completed all of their drops.

The Shutesbury Elementary School reports that there are two families in Shutesbury who did not sign up for a broadband connection but now need one for home schooling purposes. We will explore using the Cares Act to cover the Installation costs.

A question was asked about whether there was enough fiber capacity on the poles to provide fiber to potential new building lots on Locks Pond Road. The original design anticipated this sort of need, and ShutesburyNet is committed to providing such connections. Note that new drop costs expenses must be covered by the lot owner.

Set Next Meeting	
	Wednesday, December 16, 2020, 5:30pm