

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
7_19_2023	5:00 PM DST	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress	
Minutes keeper	Jim Hemingway	
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	
Other		
Approved minutes June 21, 2023		

Hut Report: Graeme recently tripped the hut alarm due to a weak battery in the SimpliSafe setup which turned out to be a good test of the alarm system. Jamrog recently made a 4th visit to the hut to fix one of the two Daikin heat pumps. But this repair visit was as unsuccessful as the previous three. Same story with the Shutesbury fire station and their Daikin heat pumps, according to Becky, our Town Administrator, which suffered similar damage during a power outage some months ago. Graeme suggested we look for a new maintenance company once this ordeal is over.

Jason at Jamrog has been able to replace some of the parts in the heat pump under warranty. But still the troubleshooting problems persist while the repair bills, now over \$1,500, mount up. Gayle will look into finding a different Daikin service contractor. But up to this point 3 circuit boards have been replaced plus some other parts without success. Gayle will share her findings with Becky once she locates a new Daikin service firm.

Graeme and Jim have also been closely following the massive pole replacement project now going on in Shutesbury and Wendell that will eventually connect the Wendell and the Shutesbury electrical sub-stations together with three phase power.

Gayle has not been notified or kept in the loop about all of these pole replacements and changes by National Grid due to our lack of not having a proper registration within the NJUNS (National Joint Utilities Notification System) which supposedly keeps accurate and timely details about upcoming utility projects nationwide. Gayle was recently able to register and have the SMLP recognized as a utility entity which hopefully will make it easier for the MLP to receive notices of any plans by the Utilities to make changes to the poles that might affect the structure and operation of our fiber network.

Graeme will also arrange to buy sufficient replacement batteries for all of the battery powered appliances in the hut. And speaking of batteries, SHELD is concerned about the UPS batteries that power the hut's electronics during all the recent power shift transitions between the hut generator and National Grid. Those big gel-cell/lead acid batteries may not currently be holding enough charge to power the electronics adequately during these transitions caused by temporary power outages and fluctuations. They will be tested and replaced if needed.

Gayle also noted that the budget set aside for hut repairs has been overspent. We might have to consolidate some of our Budget categories to correct this problem, something that the Town's Finance Committee has recently been discussing in connection with the proliferation of numerous and somewhat redundant budget lines in other Town departments. We will revisit this issue when we work on next year's budget in February, 2024.

Financial Report: The final tab from SHELD for all the storm damage service work they have done during 2023 amounts to approximately \$45K. During the Fiscal 2023 year we have spent \$116K for maintenance and repair, \$45K of which went to repairing the damage from last winter's storms. This left about \$71,000 in "regular" maintenance and repair costs for the year, \$11,000 over our allocated \$60,000 annual maintenance and repair budget. And so we will undoubtedly be increasing our budget for maintenance and repairs for FY 2024. Almost all of the repairs were drop repairs except for the Cushman fiber cable repair which cost us around \$8K. Although our maintenance and repair costs during the Crocker years were much lower, some of those costs were not billed for due to a variety of factors. SHELD's book-keeping, however, is far more accurate and up-to-date.

Gayle is still waiting for the final numbers for FY23 from our Town treasurer and accountant before she can produce an accurate financial statement for the 2023 Fiscal Year. But it looks like we might have retained earnings of around \$80,070 once all the numbers for 2023 are finalized and crunched.

Craig was wondering about the wireless speeds currently provided by the new ATT cell tower on Wendell Road. Graeme made a quick measurement and revealed that his cell phone was connecting with a connection speed of 1.8mb/sec down and .3mb/sec up. Connecting to ShutesburyNET, however, produces much better results, of course, with up to 970mb/sec down and up.

Concerning the IRU between the Shutesbury MLP and the New Salem MLP which would allow New Salem to connect with CrownCastle on Pratt Corner Road via our fiber network, Steve had some suggestions about changing some of the wording here and there by adding some clarification to some of the terms used. He also wanted more clarification about the description and the use of the term "dark fiber." Should this arrangement come to pass, none of the electronics in our hut would be involved in the Crown Castle to New Salem fiber link.

Although we are offering this dark fiber pass through at no cost to New Salem, to protect the value of our asset, we need to reserve the right to charge New Salem for this dark fiber connection after 5 years has passed should there be any relevant economic reason to do so in the future. The wording of the contract will reflect this need.

Graeme wanted to add some details concerning how subcontractors not associated with ShutesburyNET will be prevented from working in our hut. Minor edits were also made to the schematic diagram of the Interconnect Detail included with the IRU. Next step is to have New Salem review the IRU, and then the attorneys for both towns will review this document.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:30pm.

