

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
04_17_2024	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 March 20, 2024		

Hut Report – A week or so ago the high temperature alarm went off in the hut. HG&E noticed the alarm and called Gayle who promptly drove to the hut and reset the two HVAC units and got them working properly. It appears that the problem with the HVAC units working erratically may have much to do with power surges and the temporary power outages we have had recently – outages that have caused the backup generator to kick in and supply power to the hut even if the outage is a momentary one. Extensive discussion followed about the difficulties HVAC compressors might have when there are momentary power failures and the automatic transfer switch switches the hut back to National Grid power. The discussion centered around how to deal with the transients caused by the ATS (Automatic Transfer Switch) when these conditions occur. Should surge protectors be installed? Or should there be more of a delay between the transition from generator power back to street/National Grid power? Gayle and Graeme will consult with Pachiorek Electric about the ATS and with our new HVAC service team from PV&E, who met with Graeme the day after this problem occurred. The problem this time had to do with HVAC unit #2. PV&E will also get the parts needed to repair the mouse invasion problem with HVAC Unit #1 as well. Even if “delay ATS” is recommended we will likely still install surge protectors to protect the HVAC systems from power issues.

March Service Report: 72 tickets, somewhat more than the usual 40 we get most every month. The number may have been higher due to the ice storm Shutesbury had last month during which a number of our subscribers lost both power and internet.

Financial: we currently have \$61,900 in our account, enough to handle this recent problem with the HVAC units along with our other obligations. The New Salem IRU is done and signed by all parties and is currently in effect.

Gayle has recently asked Steve Sullivan, Shutesbury’s Highway Department manager, who also happens to be the Town’s new Tree Warden, about problem trees that we hope he can get National Grid to take care of in the near future. Both the MLP and the Town do have some funds set aside that could be used to mitigate tree risks not under NationalGrid purview.

Progress on our Digital Equity grant is moving along. There currently is a rough draft of the questionnaire that Gayle has been working on. Gayle hopes to get it out to Shutesbury subscribers sometime in late May or early June. Traditionally our subscribers have been very willing to respond to questionnaires from the MLP which will be particularly helpful in our ability to qualify for support provided the responses we get identify problems that could be corrected with funds from this grant. The MLP will put together a marketing push that will make everyone in town aware of the importance of responding to the questionnaire in a timely manner.

Gayle has been working with Becky to get our budget ready and accurate for presentation at the upcoming Annual Town Meeting at the end of April. There was some question about whether we should try to provide additional internet service during the ATM which is to be held inside the Elementary School's gymnasium, but that proved to be unnecessary.

Graeme will consult with the library folks about how to wire the new library for internet access. The Library Director likes the idea of having managed routers installed in the new library. This led to a discussion once again about whether we should embrace managed routers for our subscribers. Gayle is uncertain whether the managed license and payment would go directly to Calix, the router manufacturer, or whether this service would be wedded to our ISP (SHELD) and the problems that might take place if we wished to change ISPs. Gayle is hoping that the survey she is currently working on will help us understand whether our subscribers would want or need this managed service and be willing to shoulder the additional monthly cost for such a service.

Steve wanted to know if there was any news about the lock freeze-up issue at the hut that took place this winter. Both Gayle and Graeme felt that the problem may have had more to do with someone entering the code incorrectly multiple times rather than moisture getting inside the lock. Graeme will see if he can make it fail in the same way next time he is there.

Meeting concluded at 6:10 pm