

| Shutesbury Broadband Committee | | |
|------------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 1_22_2025 | 5:00pm EST | 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 December 18, 2024 | | |

Hut Report: The SimpliSafe device needs a new battery, according to Graeme. The SimpliSafe device also needs a software upgrade which Gayle will look into. Apart from that, Graeme also vacuumed the air filters in the HVAC units. Currently, all is well in the hut.

31 service tickets last month (December), 7 of which were router related. One of our subscribers who has the Calix U6 Gigaspire router had intermittent problems that were caused by a TP-Link MESH unit connected to their home network that was damaged in an electrical storm. Unfortunately, Netegrity was unable to diagnose the problem remotely by means of their connection to the Calix router, and so they sent a service truck out to take care of the problem, which ideally shouldn't have been necessary, given the diagnostic capability of the Gigaspire router. At first SHELD thought it was a problem with the router until they discovered that there was an intermittent TP Link MESH unit in the system that no one seemed to know was there. It was replaced by a Calix MESH unit which fixed the problem. This service problem highlighted the need for us to recommend the use of the Calix MESH extenders to all of our subscribers especially if we decide to go with managed routers in the future.

We, the MLP, have \$27,900 in our account right now. The MLP was generally supportive of the Town subscribing to the OpenCheck software program should the Town decide to purchase this software. About 80 checks are written by the Town's accountant every year for the MLP, checks that would be visible and accessible online for all to see and take note of, along with all of the other transactions made by the Town in other departments as well.

The NDIA (National Digital Inclusion Alliance) posted Gayle Huntress and the Town of Shutesbury as a winner of the TrailBlazer Award for 2024, notice of which appeared in the local papers and online as well. Nationwide, Shutesbury would most likely be the smallest town in the US to receive this award, thanks to Gayle and the work she did to apply for this Award.

Gayle and Jim will work together on the MLP's annual report for 2024. Gayle is hoping to try out an AI program that could turn all of our MLP minutes for 2024 into a coherent report.

National Grid is closing down their smart-app app for keeping track of all of the poles that they own which contain a record of the repairs and the work that has been done to them. National Grid decided instead to go back to using spreadsheets to keep track of the poles.

There was some question about whether our insurance policy will still cover storm damage to our fiber network with the same \$15,000 deductible per each storm event, given that they increased the deductible from the perils of earthquakes and floods from \$25,000 to \$100,000. We are not certain whether this dramatic increase in the deductible for earthquakes and floods would apply in some way to storm damage as well, especially of the sort that we experienced a short time ago when two ice storms did a significant amount of damage to our fiber network.

Gayle continues to work on the Digital Equity Plan for which a lot of paperwork is involved. Gayle is uncertain about the value of what is being proposed by FRCOG and other local towns which seems to involve a lot of layers of bureaucracy. The hope is to find an efficient and low cost way to be able to help seniors and others with connectivity problems and with finding the resources that will help them grapple with the problems that some of our subscribers have when they go online. Perhaps GCC tech-minded students could be employed in some of the towns in Franklin County to support those in need, but such an arrangement is difficult and potentially expensive to administer.

Currently there is a push to simplify and reduce the number of positions and committees listed on the Town's website. To comply with this request, Gayle proposed that the MLP eliminate or disband the "Broadband Committee." There is currently only one Broadband Committee member – Craig Martin – who attends the MLP meetings. Initially, Gayle proposed that we create a position called "community advisor," to replace our Broadband Committee member position, but Craig felt that it would be best not to do so. He would, instead, attend the MLP meetings informally in the same manner that others could as well if they were interested in coming to one of our meetings. Gayle will notify the Select Board that the MLP voted on (vote 3-0) and approved the elimination of the Broadband Committee position or designation from the MLP.

Open Meeting concluded at 6:05pm

Vote to move into Executive Session (unanimous).

This meeting has been convened in an open session and notice has been given. This is in accordance with G.L. c. 164, 47D, where the MLP is "exempt" from open meeting law in the case that competitive pricing information is discussed. The purpose of this executive session is to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining for our upcoming Network Operator and ISP discussion for a continuation of our intergovernmental agreement contract with SHELD where competitive pricing information will be discussed . This meeting will include our MLP board of directors. Broadband Committee Craig Martin, and MLP Manager, Gayle Huntress.

