

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
5_20_2026	5:00pm EDT	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 April 15, 2026		

Hut Report. Everything OK. North HVAC seems to be doing fine. South HVAC is currently doing backup and is set to operate exclusively in cooling mode. Lots of ladybugs in the hut as well.

There is a hut responsibility list that Gayle has received from Graeme that has been sent to Andy Reagan for his review. Being Graeme’s replacement, Andy may take over most of Graeme’s activity on the MLP which includes monthly visits to the hut after Graeme retires from the MLP on July 1st.

29 service tickets in April, five of which were from one customer who had difficulty communicating with Neteegrity when their fiber connection failed and were left without cell coverage.

The MLP’s bank account currently has approximately \$150,000, most of which will be used to cover our annual debt service payment of approximately \$95,000 to the Greenfield Co-operative Bank.

Only a small handful of routers are currently acceptable to the FCC, and so Gayle will wait another month before taking any new action on ordering or testing new routers for our subscribers. The MLP does not want to order and distribute replacement routers that have not been approved by the FCC.

Gayle is trying to figure out how to value the spools of surplus fiber that is behind the Town garage that she and the MLP would like to donate to SHELd which we can legally do providing the fiber is valued at less than \$10,000. She asked SHELd what the current value of 216 strand fiber cable spool might be and used that as a way to value the fiber. So calculated, the value of this high-strand fiber per foot brand new is \$4/foot., All the other leftover pieces will be of lesser value, so the total value is just under \$8,000 and below the \$10K threshold for state rules on donation. See calculation below. . Out of all the spools that we would like to donate to SHELd, Gayle will hold onto just one of them, a spool of 6,000’ of 12 strand fiber which we might be able to use locally in the coming years. Gayle will ask the Highway Department to help

move the fiber should Lee Masters and SHELD decide to accept the MLP's offer. A vote was taken by the MLP to approve this plan for donating our surplus fiber to SHELD which the MLP can legally do providing the value of our donation does not exceed \$10,000. All three MLP members voted to approve this plan.

Exact Strand Calculations:

FEET	Strand #	
2,552	48	
1,202	216	
1,420	30	
1,460	144	
2,536	144	
310	144	
344	12	
362	30	
408	96	
518	144	
538	30	
640	12	
652	96	
3956 ft.	feet total times \$2/foot	\$ 7,912.00

Another vote was taken by the MLP to approve Gayle's appointment as MLP manager for FY27. All three MLP members voted and approved Gayle's appointment for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

Gayle sent Andy Reagan, the MLP's soon-to-be newest member, the MLP's lengthy document on how the MLP runs and works. She asked Andy to give it a read in part to test how thorough this document is when it comes to understanding how the MLP works and runs.

Steve announced that Verizon has been active stringing fiber to the T-Mobile tower on Buffam Road in Pelham. Verizon seems to be the most active company when it comes to stringing fiber to many of our local cell towers. As to what sort of local wireless activity this will lead to and by whom is unknown at this time.

Lengthy discussion of what might be involved with installing fiber to the dwelling located at 30 Macedonia Road in Shutesbury which would involve the running of over 3,000' of fiber. It would undoubtedly be an expensive installation due to the distances involved. The grant could provide up to \$5,000 to help pay for this installation. Stringing the fiber through the trees or laying it on the forest floor were quickly ruled out, either method being a sub-standard installation and inherently unreliable. It was more or less decided that the best and most efficient method to bring ShutesburyNet fiber to this remote location would be to use SHEL D or Sertex's ditchwitch for the installation by running it up the middle of Macedonia Road in the manner that was done repeatedly during ShutesburyNet's construction phase over 6 years ago. Using the ditchwitch would put a ½" flexible conduit 6 to 12 inches in the ground from the edge of Cooleyville Road up to the dwelling. Such an installation, if possible, would be in keeping with many of the underground installations that took place in Shutesbury some years ago.

Meeting concluded at 6:15pm.

Next meeting will be July 1st.