

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
7_1_2026	5:00pm EDT	Town Hall Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress	
Minutes keeper	Jim Hemingway	
Committee Attendees	☒ Gayle Huntress	☒ Jim Hemingway
	☒ Steve Schmidt	☒ Craig Martin
	☒ Graeme Sephton	☒ Andy Reagan
Other		
Approved minutes May 20, 2026		

This was Graeme's last meeting with the Shutesbury MLP. Gayle talked about Graeme's years of service to the MLP which started well before there was a Shutesbury MLP. She also presented him with a photographic collage that covered his years of service to the MLP and the formative period that came before broadband became available in Shutesbury. Much of the discussion was devoted to all of the ups and downs of ShutesburyNet since the initial push to introduce fiber and town-wide internet came to our town years ago.

Individual introduction of all the current MLP members for Andy's benefit came next. Each of us spoke about when we moved to Shutesbury and when we became involved with the possibility of bringing broadband to our town.

Andy had a few questions about access to not only the hut but also to some of the technology in the hut including Simplisafe and the various log-ins and calls he needs to know should problems occur. Andy thought the MLP broadband manual that Gayle has been working on for quite some time now was particularly helpful. Graeme and Andy spent some time discussing the technology of the heat pumps and the history of their use in the hut.

Gayle plans on ordering the new replacement heat pumps for the hut in the next week or so, given the fact that the old ones, the Daikin heat pumps, have proven to be unreliable and are slowly failing due to coolant leaks.

There were 25 service tickets for May and June, no significant ones to report. Brief discussion of Netegrity and SHELD and how well their service support works for our subscribers.

Gayle showed us the total costs that have occurred for maintenance and repairs over the years that ShutesburyNet has been operating. We are averaging about \$43,000 a year in service and repair costs that are rising on average a little every year. Andy showed us a pic of a fallen tree that fell across Prescott Road Monday night just two days ago but did not damage our fiber line.

The MLP will be ending this Fiscal year with a balance of around \$27,000. However, we have around \$117,000 in retained earnings from last year for unexpected expenses in the upcoming Fiscal year. However, this means that our retained earnings for FY 2028 will be much less.

The Town wants us to submit our 2025 Annual Report this summer, much sooner than expected. Gayle and Jim will once again collaborate on this report..

It will cost us around \$28,000 to move our fiber over to the new poles on Sand Hill Road that National Grid is currently installing.

PURMA, our insurance agent, has reviewed our coverage and deems it adequate. What follows was a lengthy discussion of the costs and former trials and tribulations of MakeReady and the way it has been handled by the MLP and the Utility companies for Andy's benefit.

SHELD has agreed to take and remove all of our spare fiber reels currently behind the Town garage.

Next MLP meeting was proposed for Wednesday, July 29th which will be our July and August meeting.

Routers: Gayle brought all of us up to date on the routers and what we should and need to do in the near future. At this time our choices are limited by the FCC since we do not want to buy and distribute any router to our subscribers that is not FCC approved.. Netgear is currently the only manufacturer that makes routers that could be useful to us that are currently approved. The MLP and Gayle agreed to purchase 4-5 Netgear Nighthawk routers in the next week or so for us to test. If they measure up to our needs Gayle plans on spending the \$25K from MBI to offer Netgear Nighthawk routers to a group of our subscribers to install and evaluate in a survey that she will create. Gayle and the MLP are under pressure to use the \$25,000 MBI grant before the end of the year when the grant will expire. And once we have spent all of the grant money for these new routers, we can turn to our depreciation fund to purchase more of them for the rest of our subscribers who would like to have their aging Linksys EA7300 router in their homes replaced by a newer one..

Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm. Most of the cookies that Gayle brought to our meeting in the Shutesbury Town Hall were eaten...