

| Shutesbury Broadband Committee |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                      |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 9_23_2026                      | 5:00pm EDT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | On Line Zoom Meeting |
| Facilitator                    | Gayle Huntress                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                      |
| Minutes keeper                 | Jim Hemingway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                      |
| Committee Attendees            | <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Gayle Huntress</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Steve Schmidt</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Andy Reagan</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Jim Hemingway</div> <div>Craig Martin</div> |                      |
| Other                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                      |
| Approved minutes July 29, 2026 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                      |

Hut Report: Nothing new or exciting to report. There is a shortage of identification labels for our fiber optic lines on some of the poles in town according to the utility companies. And so Gayle stopped by the hut to look for some spares, but she was unable to locate any of these labels in the hut and will order some replacements. The labels help the utilities identify our fiber lines when they are servicing the poles. Gayle would also like to empty the large red lock box next to the hut that holds spare parts, which were useful to have on hand some years ago. But the box hasn't been opened in over two years and is no longer useful. Gayle hopes to give what service parts that are still there in the box to SHELD to be added to our inventory of parts that SHELD manages in South Hadley. The removal of the fiber reels behind the highway department's maintenance garage is currently a work in progress. Thanks to the fact that both SHELD and the Shutesbury MLP are both non-profits, we were able to donate this left-over fiber to SHELD from our network construction some years ago.

SHELD has been moving our fiber to the newly installed poles on Pratt Corner Road and relashing our fiber to support strands where it had come loose. This is all due to the new 3 phase utility poles that were recently installed on Pratt Corner Road. SHELD will also install the new splitter distribution box on West Pelham Road, Gayle having just received a new pole license to do so from the utility company. Total cost for both of these operations will be about \$35,000 which will use up half of our \$70K repair and maintenance budget for this current fiscal year. Fortunately, the MLP has additional funds to cover any future repair costs that might occur.

Not much of note to report about our checking account, it being early in the FY27 fiscal year. Our retained earnings from FY26 will not be voted on during this upcoming special town meeting. Fortunately, the MLP does not currently have any pressing needs for these earnings.

Routers: Gayle has received 8-9 bids for a batch of 120 Netgear RS200 routers that the MLP plans to purchase for distribution during our Netgear router installation trial coming up during this November. These routers will be delivered to the SHELD warehouse in So. Hadley. The plan is to distribute 30-35 of them on three separate occasions to those who sign up for the trial.

The plan is for our subscribers in each of the three groups to come on that appointed day to the Shutesbury town library and pick up the new Netgear router, take it home and install it immediately. Kelly and others from tech support at SHELD will be on hand at the Shutesbury library all day long to provide technical assistance on each of the three days for those who have trouble installing them. The three days the routers and SHELD's support will be available are all in November – Tues Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>, Sat the 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday the 17<sup>th</sup>. Gayle will be sending out an announcement about this distribution plan shortly to all of our subscribers, and she will decide how to allocate the routers as the requests come in should more than 100 or so respond. More routers will be available early next year for those who want to replace their Linksys router with the new Netgear RS200 router should they decide to wait until then. It is hoped that much will be learned about installing the new Netgear routers from the three groups of 30-35 subscribers who respond to Gayle's initial survey which will be sent out to all of our subscribers in early to mid-October. Gayle will also collect information about these November installations, not only about how easy or difficult the RS200s were to install, but whether the Netgear routers worked better than the older Linksys ones presently in use in the homes of most of our subscribers.

Gayle will shortly be sending out copies of the new surveys she has drafted for the upcoming November installations for the three MLP members to take a look at.

Gayle tried out the parental controls feature on the new Netgear routers and found them to be not much better than the ones that came with the Linksys routers.

Gayle will put some of the privacy issues that Andy brought up into our next contract discussion with SHELD.

Next Meeting, October 21<sup>st</sup>.