Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
10_21_2026	5:00pm EDT	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress	
Minutes keeper	Jim Hemingway	
Committee Attendees	☒Gayle Huntress ☒Jim Hemingway ☒Steve Schmidt ☒Craig Martin ☒Andy Reagan	
Other		
Approved minutes September 23, 2026		

Hut Report – not much to report, no new problems with the mini-splits. Both units seem to be working fine. A hard wired fire protection system will be installed in the hut sometime soon. It will be connected to the system that will be installed in the Town Hall. Lennie, our fire chief, may want a lock box installed near the doorway of the hut similar to those that other town buildings currently have.

Maintenance and Service – The fiber optic splitter on West Pelham Rd. has been successfully installed at significant expense. We have used up about half of our maintenance budget and have spent about $35,000 so far. But if we run short, we will be able to use some of our retained earnings from 2026 to cover maintenance and service calls should we use up all of the funds in this part of our budget.

Steve reports that Verizon plans to abandon the use of their copper wire landline network in our town in the near future as they have in other parts of the State.

Financial: The MLP currently has about $25,000 in our cash account. Steve reports that he took some pics of the the area next to the highway department's garage where the cable spools were located. SHELD will have removed all of them in the near future. Gayle also spent some time recently working out an agreement with Chief Pelletier for police details needed for managing traffic on our roads when SHELD is doing pole work.

Gayle applied for and was awarded the post of Executive Director of Wired West, a job and a position that she will do in addition to her work of managing the MLP here in Shutesbury. But to do so Gayle needs to change the day of the month when the MLP meets since Wired West meets the first and the third Wednesday of the month. Gayle proposes to change our meeting day to the second Wednesday of the month for our MLP meetings to be held at 5pm. So the plan is that we, the MLP, will meet on Wednesday November 18th at 4:30pm to start and then at 5pm December 9th, the second Wednesday of every month thereafter.

Routers: Gayle has had 124 responses so far to the three trial installation periods this November for the new Netgear RS200 routers. She feels the process is going well with lots of back and forth between her and those subscribers who wish to be a part of this trial period for the new routers. Gayle is pleased with the response so far though she hoped for more responses. She and the MLP don't know why there were not more responses. Some of our subscribers may be choosing to wait for a variety of reasons. She is considering a router sign-up in early 2027 for those who choose to wait until then to order and request a new router. At this point it is difficult to estimate how many routers we should eventually order since we cannot make the assumption that all of our subscribers will want a new router. Perhaps our experience with the responses that will be coming from our subscribers who will be participating in the trial installation this November will provide us with some answers. Gayle has ordered 130 routers from an outfit in Colorado, a Netgear distributor, who won the competitive bid for the router order. Steve suggested ordering the routers in the future in small batches since we don't know what the demand for the new routers will be. At this point we just don't know how many of these Netgear routers we will need in 2027 and beyond. Perhaps we should make them available for free only during a 6 month period beginning Jan 1, 2027. We will learn a lot more once the pilot test beginning this November 3rd has concluded. Gayle and Jim will be working on creating some instructions for installing the Netgear RS200 routers that we hope will be helpful. She will get some additional installation instructions written by this weekend for all of us to review.

The router review was followed by a brief discussion of all the new pole activity on West Pelham Rd. and the work that still needs to be done there once National Grid has finished their pole replacement work.

Gayle will be at the router pickup site at the new Library during those three days in November when the Netgear routers will be distributed. She will be there all day along with the SHELD techs to answer installation questions from our subscribers about the new routers.