

TA Report 2.22.13

STORM REPORT- No Name, yet. Expected to drop 2 inches Saturday night and 8-10 on Sunday. Stay safe and warm.

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY FORUM

**Wed. Feb. 27, 2013 at 6:30 PM
Shutesbury Elementary School**

**Presentation of the findings of the Regional School District Planning Committee
& Question and Answer Session**

**EDUCATIONAL AND FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS' REPORTS are available on line at
<http://www.RegionalSchoolPlanning.info>**

Regionalization Analysts, Malcolm Reid and Marc Abrahams presented their findings on Educational and Financial Impacts of the four towns forming either a new pre-K-6 Region or a pre-K-12 Region in a public session last Saturday, 2/2/13. Copies of the report are available at the library and town hall. I encourage you to review the materials and **come to a town wide forum to be held Wednesday, February 27, at the elementary school, at 6:30pm.** If you have any questions please call and ask your questions.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING 3/21/13

The Community Preservation Committee will vote on the Hearse House restoration project March 21, at 7pm. The request for funds to restore the Hearse House at the Leverett Road town cemetery is supported by the Cemetery Commission, Historical Commission and Building Committee. A rough estimate for the project is about \$20,000.

POT LUCK LUNCHEON, MARCH 5, noon at the town hall, downstairs. If you are interested in joining the luncheon organized by the Council on Aging please contact Marilyn Tibbetts at 259-1976, **please call by Monday, March 4**, at the latest. Please let her know what you are bringing to ensure a nice mix of items.

MED RIDE PROGRAM starts up in March, 2013. If you need a ride to a medical appointment and are 55 and older and need a ride, no wheelchairs or walkers can be accommodated. To get more information on the Med Ride Program call **259-2123**. You will need to give at least a 2 week lead time at this point. If you are interested in volunteering to drive please call **259-2123** and leave your name and number. Linda Scott or David Dann will call you back.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Water Resources Committee is looking for a new member to represent the Conservation Commission on the Water Resources Committee. If you are interested please contact the Conservation Commission, 259-3792.

Becky Torres, Shutesbury Town Administrator, townadmin@shutesbury.org 259-1214

WIREDWEST UPDATE This is a report from the Executive Director of Wired west, Monica Webb. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Newsletter from Wired West Executive Board:

WiredWest March 2013 Update

The last 12 months were busy for WiredWest, and included the addition of 16 new towns to the Cooperative, bringing the current membership to 42 towns working together to create a long-term, comprehensive solution to the problem of inadequate broadband access.

Business Planning

Significant work has been undertaken to enable financing and buildout of the network. In the spring of 2012, WiredWest conducted a comprehensive market survey in member towns. The survey provided detailed information on residents' usage of existing services, and appetite for new services. The results indicated strong demand for the network and provided guidance on potential service offerings.

Last fall WiredWest launched a Support Card Campaign in its member towns. The information will be used in network design and to provide assurances to potential financing sources. The campaign is continuing into the first quarter of 2013 and residents and businesses that have not yet completed a Card are urged to do so at www.wiredwest.net as soon as possible.

WiredWest has developed comprehensive pro-forma financial statements with input from other municipal fiber networks and financial expertise, and has met with public and private financing sources to put the project on track for financing in 2013.

Network Planning

To complete the engineering work required for financing, a GIS database was created for WiredWest towns, and potential network distribution locations in each town were evaluated. An engineering firm provided high level network design and cost estimates to WiredWest and the options are being reviewed to create final estimates for our pro-forma financial statements.

FY 2013 Plans

WiredWest will be focused on finalizing the business plan including the pro-forma financial statements, final network design and other information needed for financing.

WiredWest will also continue working with financing sources to determine the best and most expedient strategy for financing the network. We will continue to solicit grants and donations for interim funding, and will be completing an economic impact study to quantify the regional economic impact of the network. If you are interested in staying abreast of developments, we encourage you to visit the WiredWest website to join our email list or follow WiredWest on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter.

Clarifications Regarding Service on the Massachusetts Broadband Institute Network

WiredWest has received a number of inquiries about service on the state's fiber-optic network, MBI 123, which is lighting up in Western Massachusetts beginning this March. The MBI 123 middle-mile network was built to serve as wholesale backhaul for last-mile networks and to connect Community Anchor Institutions (CAIs). It will not serve homes and businesses directly.

The MBI's fiber is similar to a high-voltage power line, in that getting fiber-optic connectivity to homes and businesses from the MBI network will require a separate, last-mile distribution network. Even if the MBI network passes by your home or business, access will only be available to you after routing through a *last-mile* fiber network which would wire fiber back to your premises.

A last mile fiber network typically connects to users via centrally-located facilities, where the necessary equipment can be placed in a secure, protected area with backup power. In WiredWest's case, those facilities would be located in most town centers.

The MBI 123 network *will* be offering service to CAIs, which **[includes the town hall, library, police and fire stations, school and health care facilities. Our library offers free wireless access, so residents can utilize the MBI 123 network there.]**

This is another reason the WiredWest network is critical for our communities. The state has created a state-of-the-art fiber-optic highway in our region. Now it's up to us to build the last-mile "off-ramps," creating a robust network from end-to-end that finally connects the unconnected, and provides our citizens with access to affordable, reliable and high-capacity broadband.

If you have any questions about WiredWest, please visit the website at www.wiredwest.net, or contact your town representatives Becky Torres or Weezie Houle.