

Shutesbury Broadband Committee			
1_20_2021	5:30 PM EST		On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress		
Minutes	Jim Hemingway		
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Frank Citino	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ayers Hall
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Eric Stocker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kent Whitney
Other			
Approved minutes for 12/16/2020, one abstention(Frank Citino)			

Hut Report: HVAC has been turned off(cooling) but the heating will kick in if temps fall below 50F. Passwords have been changed due to a change in Crocker personnel.

Andrew, not Tim, from Crocker will be involved with all the new security tests which will be conducted to test the hut's SimpliSafe security system next week.

Service tickets, once again, are fewer, in number, now around 60 tickets for last month, most of which have been resolved. From Crocker, Tim Otto's security report overview was sent to us recently. The committee discussed the recent SolarWinds attacks on other networks and whether we should have an independent audit/security assessment for our overall system. Kent will look into this matter and report back.

New fiber installations at 4 households in Shutesbury took place recently, the cost for which was covered by the Cares Act.

The final \$25,500 of the original broadband grant from the State will be deposited in the Town's account next week. The MLP would like to see this last part of the grant money for the construction of our fiber network put towards paying off the debt that is coming due this coming August.

155 people in Shutesbury have not applied to WiredWest to get their refund deposit back, despite WiredWest's having sent notices to their addresses on file. Those who have not requested their deposit return need to do so by April, 2022 or these monies will go to the State (according to State statutes). Gayle will post notices in the next two Our Town issues (September and January) to try and reach them.

Should we, as a group, make note of potentially troublesome trees near our fiber that need to be taken down or pruned? Such a list could be sent to our Town Administrator, and she could forward it to our town forester to investigate. Yes – our committee should keep an eye out for any trouble trees so we can keep them on our list to mitigate.

Financial: Steve has directed Gail, our Town accountant, to move \$38K into our Capital Stabilization account which will be used eventually to upgrade, replace or repair the equipment in the hut. The missing check from Crocker, mentioned last month, finally showed up. Gayle is working with Crocker on trying to get detailed bills for the repair work that Tri-Wire has been doing. Details about the Tri-Wire billing have been slow to appear and are incomplete. The MLP needs to keep track of the cost of these repairs in order to be able to estimate what we ought to set aside in the future for repairs. It's hard to estimate what future repair costs will be if we don't know what the past repair costs have been.

Surety Bond: The packets sent out by Gayle last fall have been lost twice in the mail, but Verizon has finally received them, and their lawyers have responded with a lengthy legal document that seeks to deny our request. Despite many pages of legalese cited by Verizon for why we should have to continue to pay the yearly Surety Bond fees(\$7,000), Gayle still wants to move ahead with the claim, which will be submitted to the State/DTC for adjudication. Gayle noted that U-Mass was able to get an exemption, and so why can't a municipal utility like the Shutesbury MLP be exempt as well? Jo Comerford, our State senator, is very supportive of our claim. Gayle has forwarded the documents to Graeme so that he can examine all of the arguments that the Verizon lawyers have made. We have to respond within 20 days to the DTC to rebut the Verizon response. Much discussion about the issues that Verizon raised, culminating in uniform support for Gayle's plan. Graeme wondered if there has been any other Massachusetts municipal utility that has gone bankrupt, forcing Verizon to take fiber off of their poles at their expense which is what the Surety Bond is supposed to cover. It's a complicated legal issue that the Shutesbury MLP will continue to pursue.

Having received many questions from other municipalities regarding our overall project success, Gayle has written a document answering the most common questions from other towns about our project details which can be supplied whenever there is a request for more information about how to build a municipal network.

Set Next Meeting	
	Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 5:30pm