

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
11_16_2022	5:00 PM EST	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress	
Minutes keeper	Jim Hemingway	
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt Craig Martin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	
Other		
Approved minutes October 19, 2022		

Hut Report: heat pump filters cleaned – SimpliSafe requiring some software updates which Gayle will do. Gayle will be resetting all of the locks and security settings in the next two weeks or so in the process of completing our transition to SHELd.

Maintenance report: been quiet as of late. A new notification process has been introduced by SHELd to inform Gayle and Graeme when a service incident takes place. Gayle has received our first check from SHELd for about \$29,000.

The last batch of phone transitions from Crocker to BigRiver was done today. There are a few stragglers who will hopefully be rounded up and properly transitioned this coming Wednesday. Overall, the phone transition has gone well. Those with a second landline phone attached to their router required a truck roll/service call to provision ATA devices (analogue telephone adapter). There are only about a dozen ShutesburyNet subscribers who have two landline phones.

Gayle is pleased with the phone transition – very low numbers of complaints or problems noted. She feels that all our communications concerning the transition from Crocker to SHELd were very effective in getting our subscribers to make and successfully embrace the switchover.

However, roughly 20% of our subscribers have not set up their SHELd account properly and have not paid their September/October/November bill. SHELd will send out an email + snailmail reminder to those who have not done so next week. A final notice of non-payment will go out in mid December, and those who do not respond by mid-January will have their service shut off. Should this happen, they will have to pay a re-connection fee as well to get their fiber-optic service restored.

Our parts inventory: ShutesburyNet will not maintain its current inventory of spare parts with SHELd once it is depleted because SHELd already stocks all of the parts used in our network in far greater quantities than we do. Up to now we have been using fiber drop cables with connectors on both ends which take more time to install and are more expensive. SHELd uses fiber cable with just one connector for connecting the fiber drop cable to the MST on the pole

and then cuts the cable to length. This operation goes much more quickly and is less expensive than the way we have been repairing drop connections up to now. And so our cost for replacing a fiber drop cable in the field will be significantly less than before. We will be taking advantage of SHELD's huge inventory of spare parts. SHELD applies a 10% markup to all of the parts it uses for repairs to our fiber network.

Gayle reviewed the length of the terms for each of the three MLP members. Jim's term is up July 1st, 2025, and Graeme and Steve's a year earlier.

There will be a celebration in Ashfield on December 2nd to commemorate the successful completion of the construction of the 'last mile' network in Western Massachusetts. It will be hosted by the governor. Gayle, most likely, will be attending this celebration along with the three amigos, Graeme, Jim and Steve.

Steve would like to see a hyperlink to ShutesburyNet information on the Town's website on the front page of the Shutesbury.org website, given the fact that such information is currently not all that easy to locate. Steve suggested that this link be posted prominently on the left side of the Shutesbury web page. And he also suggested that such a link be added to the Services menu as well. Gayle will work with the web committee to make this change.

Concerning the Digital Equity meeting which Gayle and Jim attended at noon yesterday. This meeting included a discussion of how \$50 million in ARPA funds could be made available for broadband use and needs throughout Massachusetts along with the likelihood that even more funding will become available from the Federal Government Infrastructure Bill in order to support unserved and underserved communities. Municipalities will be invited to submit their potential needs for some of this funding to the MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute). There are many avenues for support that ShutesburyNet could pursue either by applying for funding thru FRCOG or by applying directly to the MBI. We might be able to get funding for connecting those who are still unserved in our town or perhaps obtain some funding for some of our upcoming hardware needs or for finding ways to support those in our town who could benefit from the educational possibilities of broadband who currently have limited means to do so. Given the various timelines for the disbursement of such funding, we are unlikely to be able to take advantage of this possible resource in the near future. But we hope to pursue such avenues of support for our enterprise in the weeks and months to come.

Good news: our new CrownCastle 10gb connection has been tested by HG&E (Holyoke Gas and Electric) and is ready to replace the one we currently have with Crocker. The transition to this new connection will take place the night of December 5/morning of December 6th at midnight, at which time there will be a brief outage for a few minutes. Our Crocker connection will still be useable until the end of December and will serve as a backup until then.

Our next meeting will be December 21st.

Meeting concluded at 6:15pm

