

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
5_25_2023	7:00 PM DST	On Line Zoom Meeting
Facilitator	Gayle Huntress	
Minutes keeper	Jim Hemingway	
Committee Attendees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gayle Huntress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jim Hemingway Craig Martin
Other		
Approved minutes April 19, 2023		

Hut Report: HVAC issues – Graeme met with Adrian from Jamrog yesterday who came with more replacement boards for one of the two heat pumps, but that didn't fix the problem caused by the power surge in the last big winter storm. Gayle has three invoices from Jamrog. The sensor board was replaced this time but the problem still persists. Jim and Graeme also took a look a short time ago at the generator's block heater which comes on unnecessarily in rather warm weather during which it needlessly consumes about 500 watts of power. Graeme also wants to try and set the generator to run for a longer transition period once the National Grid power returns after a power failure. Currently, the transition takes place after only 10 seconds. Graeme would like to extend it for a longer interval maybe as long as 2 minutes. Graeme will confer with SHELD about this possibility.

Gayle reminded everyone that we will meet with SHELD at the hut on the 6th of June to review the hut's equipment and our network.

SHELD reports that we are receiving around 50 service calls a month, which is about the same number we had on average with Crocker. Jim will provide a router for our upcoming ATM on June 3rd which will be held once again behind the Town Hall.

Financial Report: Gayle will speak briefly at our upcoming Annual Town Meeting concerning the MLP's two warrant articles.

The MLP's current financial status:

\$ 525,746.34	\$ 393,191.64	\$ 132,554.70
MLP FEES	DEBIT	BALANCE

Shutesbury's tree warden has been able to get National Grid to prune and remove some of problem trees that were on the list that he and Jim created a few months ago. We are now, hopefully, better prepared for damage to our fiber network from future storms.

Steve moved to reappoint Gayle as our Shutesbury MLP Manager for the upcoming 2024 Fiscal year. Graeme seconded that motion – Hemingway, aye; Schmidt, aye and Sephton, aye.

Gayle has been working on our section of the MLP's web page on the Town's website thanks to improvements in the new Drupal software, which has made it possible for her to do some needed and useful edits.

Gayle will attend Mass Tech Collaborative meeting which is billed as a digital equity summit on June 13th in Worcester. Shutesbury, unfortunately, does not qualify for much of the federal support that is becoming available through the collaborative. Gayle would like to pursue getting state funds to support a survey to identify our digital equity needs.

Graeme wants the town to get the town's electrician to install a surge protector in the Town Hall not only to protect the power that is distributed there to the hut but also to help protect all the electronics and appliances in the Town Hall itself.

Discussion about obtaining ARPA money if there is still any available. Steve thought it would be nice to use it, if it was available, to clear brush and trees that could damage our fiber drops from the poles on the streets to our subscriber's homes. But it seems unlikely that ARPA funds could be used for this purpose.

We have received an insurance check for roughly \$18,000 for damage from the second of the two storms this winter. Total cost of repairs for this storm was approximately \$28,000. The first storm cost the MLP approximately \$17,000, for which we received an insurance payment of roughly \$7,000. We have a \$10,000 deductible with the insurance company for each weather event.

Mary Ellen, who runs the MLP in New Salem, wants to connect to Crown Castle which would be possible through our Shutesbury fiber network. An IRU needs to be done between our two towns to bless this possibility. Donna McNichol, the town of Shutesbury's lawyer, will need to review the IRU, after which the Shutesbury MLP will vote on it. Gayle will draft the IRU and get it to town council.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm