

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
8_16_2023	5:00 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"/> Jim Hemingway <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Schmidt <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	
Other		
Approved minutes July 19, 2023		

Hut Report: Jamrog came back for the 5th time to install yet another part, a new indoor fan motor, in the defunct Daikin heat pump which they hoped would finally fix the problem we have been having with it for some time now. However, this replacement fan did not fix the problem. As a result, Jamrog has offered to replace the entire head-end unit at no cost except for labor. Gayle has been able to locate two other potential Daikin service contractors in our area and will report this find to Becky Torres, the Town Administrator, who has had similar problems with getting the Daikin heat pumps at the Shutesbury Fire Station repaired. And so we may try to work with another vendor for servicing the Daikin heat pumps given the difficulties we have had trying to repair and maintain the Daikin units in the hut this year.

Graeme did some re-caulking on the back side of the hut during one of his recent visits. He also fixed the SimpliSafe keypad which was unexpectedly dead once again which, being so, set off the alarm when he entered the hut. The problem turned out to be some corrosion on the battery terminals in the keypad which he fixed. Sometime soon HG&E will be proposing a new security system to be installed in the hut which would replace the Simplisafe unit with something quite different.

The lead acid batteries in the UPS units that were bought by many of our subscribers to keep the ONTs alive during a power failure are now all beginning to fail. Gayle has been providing an increasing number of replacement AC power supplies which can be used to bypass the UPS units for those who choose not to replace the lead acid batteries in their UPS units.

Gayle reports that the maintenance and service reports that she receives from SHELd are still averaging around 50-60 “help tickets” a month.

Retained earnings from the 2023 fiscal year that ended July 1, 2023 amounted to \$138,342 as reported by Gail Weiss, the Town of Shutesbury’s Accountant. These earnings will be available to the MLP sometime this fall once they are certified by the State. Steve and Gayle will work together to confirm the accuracy of this amount in the near future.

National Grid has still never billed us or any of the other towns within the WiredWest broadband community for pole rental fees according to Gayle. Not the case with Verizon or EverSource.

Thanks to our new membership in the NJUNS (National Joint Utilities Notification System), Gayle has been notified by them that the new poles along the Leverett/Shutesbury Road are ready to host our fiber optic cables. She has been working with Bobby Liswell at SHELD to arrange a time when SHELD can move our fiber optic cables from the old poles over to the new ones. National Grid will be installing three new poles on Wendell Road which have not been there before to add additional support for the three phase cables that are soon to be installed. Shutesbury's Select Board has given National Grid permission to do so as of yesterday at their meeting. It may be several months before we will be able to transfer our fiber optic network cables over to all the new and replacement poles on Wendell and Locks Pond Road which is where all of the pole replacement activity in Shutesbury by National Grid is currently taking place.

Gayle has still not heard from Becky about the insurance claim concerning the damage to the Daikin heat pump caused by the power outages during the last big snow storm event some months ago.

We are now registered in the Dig Safe database for all of our buried fiber conduit, and so theoretically we will be notified when there are plans to do any digging near our fiber cables. However, it may be difficult to get all the data about the location of our buried fiber into the Dig Safe database, a project that Gayle is working on. Any Dig Safe notification that Gayle and the MLP get requires us to red flag the ground where the cable is buried within 72 hours. SHELD may be able to provide us with someone on their staff who could handle this task when the need arises.

SHELD is working up a cost estimate for installing fiber at a new home/construction site in Leverett bordering the Leverett/Shutesbury Town line on the Leverett/Shutesbury road. This would be another network extension for the Shutesbury MLP into a neighboring town similar to the ones on Pelham Hill and Old Egypt roads which will hopefully be easier to accomplish than some of the ones we have done in the past.

Steve reports that T-Mobile is installing cell antennas on a formerly vacant cell tower on Pratt Corner Road in Pelham.

MLP meeting adjourned at 6pm.