

Shutesbury Broadband Committee		
2_18_2026	5:30pm 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Craig Martin <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graeme Sephton	
Other		
Approved minutes January 28, 2026		

Hut Report: Graeme and Steve met at the hut yesterday. Minor maintenance was performed by both. This was, in part, a preparation for the possibility of Steve taking over some of Graeme’s work in the hut when Graeme’s term with the MLP expires July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. They did look into the possibility of installing insulation which will be a challenge due to all the obstructions on the walls and ceiling of the hut, let alone whether it would help us reduce our consumption of electricity. Shutesbury’s ECAC might be able to lend us some support for this project. Graeme will attempt to calculate the R value of installing insulation in the hut and the savings that might bring to our energy consumption.

Only 21 service tickets in January – a very quiet month. One of the tickets requested the possibility of “enhanced service.” They were looking for faster speeds according to the ticket, but unclear if they needed more actual speed or just a faster router/device. Gayle will look into this matter.

The MLP currently has a surplus of \$109K, most of which will go to debt service in April.

Gayle submitted to the MBI the cost of the work and the equipment the MLP has done and contributed to the new library, the cost allocation for which amounts to \$10K. The bulk of this grant money has gone to the cost of the routers, laptops and video screens installed in the new library that this grant will be paying for. This will be the first of many reimbursements we hope to receive from the MBI grant. Gayle also noted that there may be some flexibility in the final date Gayle needs to submit to the MBI the costs of the routers that we hope to distribute to our Shutesbury subscribers which might be extended from the end of June until mid-August. We will also have a lot of different routers left over from our current evaluation process once the final decision is made on which router we are going to choose and provide for our subscribers which will replace the Linksys ones currently in use. Gayle thinks we could create some sort of a lottery which would allow us to distribute them locally to some of our subscribers who might be interested in trying them out. Graeme also thought we might be able to use some of the grant money to upgrade the Town Hall router(s?) to a Ubiquiti mesh and create a new public WiFi SSID at the Town Hall which could match the public WiFi SSID

currently in use at the library. Gayle feels that keeping the Town Hall and library networks electronically separate would be a good idea.

Gayle will create a short survey to explore the roles and the work we all do for the MLP. The last one she and the MLP completed was several years ago. She feels we ought to be doing this on a yearly basis in order to preserve a reliable record of how we operate the MLP.

Gayle will ask the Town Clerk about the nomination papers for potential MLP members and when they are due.

Graeme noticed that there has been a lot of recent activity at the cell tower on Wendell Road, which might have something to do with Verizon.

Meeting ended at 6pm.