

Minutes of the Broadband Committee
Town of Charlemont
January 20, 2016

- The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm.
- Committee members present: Mary Ellen Banks, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Trevor Mackie, Doug White

- The minutes from meetings on December 16, January 6 and January 11 were all approved unanimously.
- Bob gave an update on the WiredWest / MBI negotiations. Some suggestions were made regarding other similar inter-municipal organizations that could be used as references: regional school districts, agricultural coops.
- The timeline for the MBI RFP has been extended to January 29. MBI has said the comments will be posted publicly, with answers to questions received.
- Finance committee meeting update: Ownership is still a key issue for the Finance Committee, although they are largely supportive of the initiative. Things may become more clear when MBI has announced what models and safeguards will be acceptable. There was also discussion of a user fee, as raised by the finance committee.
- Price pressure on small cable companies could be an issue for TV on Wired West network. MBI also has some questions about including TV in the business plan.
- Discussion of the Cool and Connected grant program. Trevor will follow up with the program.
- Discussion of other models that combine state/municipal funding, especial DoT.

- Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.