

Minutes of the Broadband Committee
Town of Charlemont
August 22, 2017

DRAFT

- Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.
- Committee members present: Mary Ellen Banks, Ken Hall, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Trevor Mackie, Doug White.

- The minutes from July 7 were approved unanimously.
- Bob, Trevor, Mary Ellen and Ken reported on the walk-out meeting with WG+E that occurred during the day. Joe Parda from WG+E and Nick Sarnelli from PVC were in attendance. Nick is the field operations manager for PVC. Beth Bandy and Peg Dean also attended part of the meeting.
- Nick Sarnelli had already visited parts of town in the morning. He will return later in the week to visit more sites. The survey crews will arrive Monday, Aug 28 (probably seven people, Nick provided a list). He said the survey may take 5 or 6 weeks (rough guess) because we are doing a full survey and there are a number of difficult locations in town (e.g. utilities not beside the road).
- We went over the maps and lists of edge cases and special situations in town. They thanked us for the thorough preparation and noted that we were better prepared than most towns. Where we have multiple design options (e.g. Warner Hill Road, Legate Hill, Johnson Road, Heath Stage Terrace), they will provide some high-level recommendations and then proceed with survey and design. They will meet with Rowe on August 23 and will discuss the Legate Hill / Davis Mine situation with them.
- We toured the potential hut locations. They expressed concern about the fairgrounds being served by only one utility line, which creates a single point of failure. They also expressed concerns about the dampness in the town hall basement. We discussed two other potential locations: A free-standing building on the west side of the town hall or a building attached or near the town hall in the rear just to the east of the back door and bulkhead. We need to decide about hut location soon, but since all of the locations are close together, the pole survey can proceed.
- We discussed the fiber regeneration station on Zoar Road (originally MCI, now likely CenturyLink) which Joe said was potentially useful as WG+E has network connections and a relationship with CenturyLink.
- We discussed Bob's initial answers to the WG+E questions. Cheryl thought it was worthwhile to dig deeper into whether we should add mini-cell technology into our design. She volunteered to follow up with WG+E and research this.
- Nick said that from what he has seen so far, the utility poles on Route 2 are quite crowded and might need significant make-ready work. Cheryl suggested we follow up with MBI about overlashing to save money. Bob will follow up with MBI.
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 5 at 7pm at Berkshire Pizzeria.
- Meeting adjourned at 9pm.