

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Lora Fulton, Ken Hall, Cheryl Handsaker

MISSING: Doug White

1. Approve Meeting Notes from [4/11/2023](#)

- a. ACTION TAKEN: Motion by Mary Ellen, seconded by Lora. Lora: yes, Ken: abstain, Cheryl: yes, Mary Ellen: yes, Bob - yes

2. Operations

- a. Northern Ring Resiliency Update
 - i. There has been an issue with the Verizon backhaul. Should we proceed with a third backhaul provider?
 - ii. MBI contract has not been signed. Will the lack of Verizon competition cause the price to go up.
 - iii. Meeting on Thursday at 11AM for stakeholders.
 - iv. IP addresses will be needed. Ask after static IP addresses at the stakeholder meeting.
- b. Budget and Financing
 - i. Town Meeting Preparation
 - 1. Ken will present the budget at ATM. Bob and Ken will connect prior to ATM to review.
 - 2. State of Broadband letter
 - a. Cheryl will write a draft and circulate an overview
 - b. ACP promotion
 - c. Sign-up campaign announcement
 - ii. Financing conversation has been accelerated
 - 1. A May 17th meeting has been scheduled to discuss
 - 2. 15 year financing remains important for maintaining the cost of service
- c. Plume box policies
 - i. Committee should come prepared to discuss and propose a policy for discussion with WCF
 - 1. Lora will work on an initial draft
 - 2. Check what other ISPs are doing related to these boxes.
- d. Items for future consideration
 - i. Reorganize the Broadband Committee
 - ii. Sign up campaign for broadband
 - iii. Digital Equity: Explore why ACP rates in W. Mass which are below average

Next meeting, May 30 @ 7PM.

Meeting adjourned 8:03 PM