

## **CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE**

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

**MISSING: Doug White**

### **1. Approve Meeting Notes from [7/12/2023](#)**

#### **a. ACTION TAKEN : APPROVE MINUTES from 7/12/2023**

- i. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Ken-yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes

### **2. Operations**

#### **a. Massachusetts Digital Equity Initiatives**

##### **i. Public Comment Review**

##### **1. Bob provided a [draft of the public comment response to the following documents](#)**

###### **a. Massachusetts BEAD Initial Proposal Volume I and II (November 13, 2023)**

###### **i. URL:**

[https://broadband.masstech.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/DRAFT%20BEAD%20Initial%20Proposal%20Draft%2011-21-23\\_Version%20for%20Public%20Comment.pdf](https://broadband.masstech.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/DRAFT%20BEAD%20Initial%20Proposal%20Draft%2011-21-23_Version%20for%20Public%20Comment.pdf)

###### **b. Massachusetts State Digital Equity Plan (undated, published on November 13, 2023)**

###### **i. URL:**

<https://broadband.masstech.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/MA%20SDEP%20FINAL%2011.13.pdf>

##### **2. Public comment will be presented to the Select Board for support on Monday, Dec 11.**

###### **a. ACTION TAKEN to recommend that the Select Board sign the public comment as written by the MLP manager**

###### **i. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Ken-yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes**

###### **b. Send along a copy to our legislators, Whip City Fiber towns, FRCOG, etc.**

##### **ii. Regional Digital Equity Committee update**

###### **1. Outreach survey has 14 participants**

###### **2. 5 from our internal survey**

###### **3. We discussed the information from the FRCOG that Lora forwarded to the group.**

###### **4. Collecting data in the spring for rural community access to see if we are underserved**

###### **5. Are we served by services for the elderly? Lora will follow up with the library.**

#### **b. Update on Hawley Broadband efforts**

##### **i. Hawley is considering a federal grant for a fiber optic network with a 20% town match.**

##### **ii. Charlemont could benefit from a connection to Plainfield and the middle ring for additional redundancy.**

#### **c. Financial Update**

##### **i. Long-term financing was closed in November.**

##### **ii. Stable at a 70% take-rate**

iii. New budget for the new year will begin in January

3. Items for future consideration

a. Reorganize the Broadband Committee - no action

Meeting adjourned: ACTION TAKEN meeting adjourned 7:42 PM.

b. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Ken-yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes