

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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

PRESENT: Amy Wales

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM.

1. Approve meeting minutes from [11/21/2024](#), [1/16/2025](#)
 - a. MOTION: Approve minutes from 11/21/2024. Moved by Mary Ellen, seconded by Ken. ,
APPROVED: Ken - yes, Mary Ellen- yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob- yes.
 - b. MOTION: Approve minutes from 1/16/2025. Moved by Ken, seconded by Mary Ellen
APPROVED: Ken - yes, Mary Ellen- yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob- yes.

2. Discussion on property at 9 8A North
 - a. Taps were allocated as if this residence was a single family home.
 - b. Building was never connected to the broadband network.
 - c. In our 1/16/25 meeting we determined that we would ask that the network extensions were provided to that building at actual cost rather than at our current network extension charges.
 - d. No new factors came to light and the decision was reaffirmed.
 - e. If the property owner chooses to add a fourth network extension to cover the basement, this can be added at cost at the time of adding the extensions to the other units.

3. Update on Broadband Committee Changes
 - a. Quorum is now 3 out of a 5 member board, approved by Selectboard on 2/10/2025.
 - b. Amy Wales has been appointed to the Broadband Committee as of 2/10/2025.

4. [Review Digital Equity Grant Budget Proposal](#)
 - a. MOTION: Approved the draft budget for DE Proposal. Moved by Ken, seconded by Mary Ellen. APPROVED: Ken - yes, Mary Ellen- yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob- yes.

5. Any other business not reasonably foreseen 48 hours in advance of the meeting.
 - a. Shutesbury is running a low-income subsidy tied to the federal Lifeline program. If Lifeline is applied to the broadband account, Shutesbury's ISP is able to provide a low-income discount. This model is something that we might be able to add to the broadband budget to serve low-income residents.
 - i. We must participate in Lifeline as part of CAF II.
 - ii. How do you qualify for Lifeline?
 - iii. Currently there are eight residents participating in Lifeline to discount their internet service.

Next meeting, Tuesday, February 18 @ 6:30 PM

MOTION to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Moved by Ken, seconded by Mary Ellen. APPROVED: Ken - yes, Mary Ellen- yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob- yes.