

Minutes of the Broadband Committee
Town of Charlemont
March 21, 2016

- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.
- Committee members present: Ken Hall, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Trevor Mackie

- The minutes from the meeting on January 20 were approved unanimously.
- We received mail containing an invoice from Adams Direct Mail for the WiredWest mailings from the fall. Bob will follow up as to why this wasn't submitted to WiredWest.
- Bob reported on discussions between WiredWest and MBI and the recent letter from MBI to towns. Bob presented an overview of the information sent out recently by WiredWest to towns, emphasizing the a key objective going forward is to make sure select boards and finance committees are deeply involved in all decision making.
- Bob and Trevor reported on attending two meetings in Hawley of towns developing or considering proposals for fixed wireless networks, including Royalston, Middlefield, Hawley and Savoy. Most of the towns are doing initial designs with Fred Goldstein of Interisle Consulting using MBI planning grants.
- Motion was made to recommend to the select board to inquire about getting an additional \$5,000 planning grant from MBI to be used for a preliminary wireless design. Motion passed unanimously. Although the committee felt that fiber was still the best option for Charlemont, it would be good to know the costs of fixed wireless, how many towers would be required, and how many residencies could practically be covered, given our difficult geography and topology.
- WiredWest has made a request for \$1,000 per town for FY2017 to cover operating expenses. This is not formal dues and towns will not lose membership if they do not fund this request.
- Motion was made to recommend to the select board and finance committee to put an article on the warrant for annual town meeting to fund WiredWest up to \$1,000, so we can have the discussion at town meeting. Passed unanimously. Bob will follow with the select board and finance committee to discuss further.
- Given the amount of activity and impending town meeting, we decided to schedule a meeting for Wednesday, April 6th at 7:30 pm.

- Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.