

Minutes of the Broadband Committee
Town of Charlemont
April 6, 2016

- The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.
- Committee members present: Mary Ellen Banks, Ken Hall, Bob Handsaker, Cheryl Handsaker, Trevor Mackie, Doug White

- The minutes from the meeting on March 21 were approved unanimously.
- Bob reported that we asked Adams Direct Mail to submit an invoice to WiredWest for payment (they originally sent it to the town, not to WiredWest).
- Bob and Trevor gave a status update on the March 23 WiredWest board meeting and recent developments with MBI, including the new fixed wireless study. Bob and Trevor also report that they met with the select board and finance committee on April 1 to give them an update.
- Discussed fixed wireless projects going on in Hawley, Royalston, Middlefield. Dave Charbonneau is scheduled to attend the wireless meeting in Hawley on April 6. Trevor and Cheryl said they would both try to attend.
- Bob reported that he raised the question of doing a fixed wireless study with the select board / finance committee on April 1. They asked to postpone any discussion to a later meeting. Bob reported on phone call with Fred Goldstein of Interisle Consulting. Although he has done studies for \$5,000 in other towns, we would get a better, more complete study for \$10,000, given our difficult geography.
- The committee discussed whether we should recommend a fixed wireless study. Consensus was that this is a fallback option if we cannot get a fiber solution. MBI is also doing a study of fixed wireless, so this might be duplicated effort. Motion to ask select board to request an MBI planning grant for a fixed wireless study was passed with a majority. Trevor Mackie abstained.
- Bob reported on preliminary conversations with Chris Lynch from Matrix Design Group about the potential for a private-partner fiber solution. Motion was made to invite Chris Lynch to present at our next meeting, passed unanimously.
- Discussed the need for a one-page handout for annual town meeting to give residents an update. Discussed suggested themes. Bob will prepare a draft and circulate prior to our next meeting.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm.