

Minutes of the Broadband Committee
Town of Charlemont
June 17, 2015

- A joint meeting with the select board was posted for May 18, just prior to annual town meeting, in case a quorum of the broadband committee was present. This meeting was not held as a quorum was not present. Bob Handsaker and Cheryl Handsaker discussed how to organize and present information on the WiredWest warrant article at town meeting.
- The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by Bob Handsaker.
- Committee members in attendance: Bob Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Steve Ferguson, Ken Hall, Cheryl Handsaker. Jim Drawe from WiredWest was also in attendance.
- Minutes of the April 29, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.
- Toby Gould has resigned from the broadband committee. A motion was made to nominate Trevor Mackie to fill the open seat. Approved unanimously.
- Bob Handsaker gave an update on the WiredWest board meeting of June 13.
- Cheryl Handsaker gave an update on the broadband sign-up campaign.
- The MBI planning grant program was discussed. A motion was made to recommend to the select board that the town participate in a joint application for planning grant money through WiredWest. Approved unanimously.
- Axia NGNetworks gave a presentation on how the town could apply for MBI money with Axis as a private enterprise partner. Under this proposal, Axia would do the network design and fund the core network build, plus contribute \$200 per subscriber to help offset other network construction costs. The town would have to fund the rest of the network build, presumably from tax revenue. The town would qualify for only part of the available state funds under this plan. Axia would have a 20 year agreement to provide service with guarantees about pricing (guaranteed to not increase over time on a per-megabyte basis). Axia stated that they were also in discussions with MBI and WiredWest about how they could participate in the WiredWest network build as an alternative to this proposal.
- Meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.