

CHARLEMONT BROADBAND COMMITTEE

ATTENDING: Bob Handsaker, Mary Ellen Banks, Lora Fulton, Cheryl Handsaker

MISSING: Doug White, Ken Hall

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

a. **ACTION TAKEN : APPROVE MINUTES from 12/7/2023 moved by Mary Ellen, second by Cheryl**

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

2. ACP Response

a. FCC is requiring ISPs participating in ACP to send an announcement by today.

b. Would the town take over ACP?

i. Charlemont has 9% of subscribers on ACP, representing \$16000+ of our operating budget.

ii. Management of the program would need to be done solely by each town.

iii. **ACTION TAKEN: Broadband Committee recommends that the Charlemont Municipal Fiber network cannot assume the responsibility for the funding or administering a program similar to the federal ACP program.** Motion by Cheryl, second by Lora

1. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes

c. Response to the Community

i. Create a draft letter with resources for taking action. Mary Ellen will draft this email

d. Response to the Legislator

i. Create a draft letter for the Select Board to circulate to legislators. Cheryl will draft this letting including SDEP asks.

e. Explore the 4 point plan put forth to save the ACP program, including reuse of the universal service fund.

3. Operations

a. Update on Massachusetts Digital Equity Initiatives

i. Community meetings are in progress. Second of three is in Charlemont on Tuesday at 6:30.

ii. Lora will support facilitation of the meeting. Let's pack the house!

b. Financial Update

i. First deadline is the 1st/ 2nd week in March to present the budget to the Finance Committee.

ii. Bob sent a draft to the committee: [x EF_Budget_FY25_2024_0124_v2.xlsx](#)

Meeting adjourned: **ACTION TAKEN meeting adjourned 7:55 PM.** Moved by Mary Ellen, seconded by Cheryl

a. Mary Ellen- yes, Lora - yes, Cheryl - yes, Bob - yes