

# Leyden Broadband Committee

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of 4/12/16 at 7:00 PM

Attendees: Bob Ryan, David Curtis, Al Woodhull and Bob Anson.

Minutes from the March 2, 2016 committee meeting accepted and approved.

## Old Business:

Al Woodhull spoke about an event at GCC last Saturday April 9, 2016 sponsored by Senate President Stan Rosenberg for local officials. He encouraged the members of the Broadband Committee to view a YouTube video of the Skype discussion between Governor Baker and attendees of said meeting.

Committee Members expressed once again that negotiations between Wired West (WW) and the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative (MBI) seem to be at an impasse. Al pointed to a recent Letters from Elizabeth Copeland, the Interim Director of MBI saying that [the parties] are not together. Articles in the newspapers back this up.

## New Business:

Bob Ryan did meet with Mayor Martin and others of Greenfield on 3/9/16. The discussion of cooperation around the issue of connecting to Greenfield's to-be-built broadband network is moving forward. We are to discuss pricing options during future meetings. The mayor is still in favor of cooperation and will present some pricing information for us to consider.

Jeff, Bob and Al attended a meeting in Wendell where the topic of the discussion was whether to form a group of towns that are currently underserved by broadband. There were representatives from eight area towns in attendance who met with the broadband committee from Wendell. Our feeling is that such a group would be best made up of geographically contiguous towns. Jeff had sent a letter to the Wendell Select board stating such and thanking them for including Leyden in the meeting.

The committee has ongoing discussions around the idea of forming a regional broadband agreement with Greenfield and Colrain. Bob Ryan will meet with representatives of the town of Colrain and invite them to enter into talks with Greenfield. One benefit of the geography of such an arrangement is that with Colrain, Leyden and Greenfield sharing wired signal the three towns would have a contiguous loop of wires. This could allow for redundancy of signal; an advantage in the case of a partial system interruption.

If Colrain declines such an offer, we will still maintain discussions with Greenfield.

Some on the Committee wonder if Holyoke Gas and Electric is working somewhat behind the scenes to improve the backbone of a broadband connection in the I91 corridor.

Bob Ryan passed out a study copy of a proposed Article 25 that may be placed on the town Warrant.

Al mentioned an article from The Recorder concerning a broadband build out in Montague.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 3, 2016 at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.