

Date: May 16th, 2022

The meeting was held virtually, on Zoom.

Committee Members Present: Sean Powers, Bob Espindola, Tom McAfee, Sean Daly

Committee Members Absent: Cathy Melanson

Town Staff Present: Derek Frates.

Consultants Present

Entry Point -Jeff Christensen, Devin Cox

David Robertson – Lewis, Young Robertson & Burningham

Special Guest Gayle Huntress, Shutesbury MLP Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM.

Gayle Huntress, Manager of the Shutesbury MLP provided history and overview of the process they followed to establish an MLP in their community.

The overview document she used for her presentation, which lasted nearly one hour, is attached so these meeting notes refer to that presentation and provide only a high level overview of the discussion.

Shutesbury is a very small community with no cell phone coverage and, prior to this project, they had no access to viable internet service other than DSL and that would not work for people who work from home.

Gayle and a partner from the community started the effort when they were working from home at the outset of the pandemic and realized that this is the only way they would be able to continue working from home without significant limitations.

Shutesbury outsources all services associated with actual operations and maintenance of the MLP and the costs associated with those services are passed along to the homeowner on their monthly bill.

Gayle explained the importance of understanding the costs associated with gaining access to poles to run fiber on, whether the poles are owned by the local utility, the encumbant cable company or phone company.

Gayle provided an overview of the budget for Shutesbury, including her own stipend for managing.

She also explained how the Board of Directors was formed and currently operates.

She also answered a series of questions that were asked ahead of the meeting and most of those answers are incorporated within the presentation document. She also referred to the Town

<https://shutesbury.org/broadband>

David Robertson, from LYRB presented the refined, one-page document to the committee. That document is attached to these minutes.

The discussion was a continuation of content in prior meetings, with refined thoughts about take rate and borrowing scenarios, providing a reasonable range of outcomes, depending on those variables.

The document will be made available for Town Meeting members the day of Town Meeting.

There was a general discussion about the status of the article 34 and 35 for Town Meeting and Town Meeting logistics including potential support from remote from David Robertson, as required. Remote access may not be possible because Town Meeting will be in person this year.

Jeff Christensen explained that Entry Point plans to update the Broadband Master Plan to explain the Town's interest in targeting underserved areas, with the thinking that, given the Town is emphasizing that already and grant funds seem to be geared toward serving those populations, updating the plan could help with securing additional funds.

Derek Frates mentioned updating the video for Town Meeting should be discussed. Alyssa agreed to take the lead, working with Derek, to update the meeting video from last year and then circulate to the group.

The group agreed that Article 34 should remain the focus and that Article 35 probably does not warrant time on the video nor its own video.

Jeff mentioned that Article 35 should be explained as giving people choice to participate or not, making it their option as opposed to a betterment.

There was a discussion about lawn signs. The same signs from last year will be offered to people to put on their lawns, with-out reference to article 35. The thought was not to confuse people and to keep the focus on Article 34 with the lawn signs.

Sean Powers made a motion to allow the chair to post content on the Town's website including the one page document from David Robertson, at his discretion. Sean Daly seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Sean Powers asked if there was a question about an update on the Community Compact Cabinet Grant and Bob Espindola explained that the Town had not received word on whether or not the Town will receive a grant.

Jeff Christensen suggested that even if the Town does not get the CCC grant, that providing access to underserved communities is something that is being emphasized on the State and Federal level so the Town might be able to get a similar grant from another source.

The next meeting date was set for June 9th at 7:00 P.M.

There was a motion to adjourn made by Sean Daly, and seconded by Sean Powers. All votes in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 P.M.

