

			
Florida, MA	Hawley, MA	Monroe, MA	Savoy, MA

Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

A meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place at the Hawley Town Office on Thursday, December 15, 2022.

In Attendance:

- Hawley: Lark Thwing* & Rick Kean
- Florida: Kevin Poirot*
- Monroe: David Gagne* (absent)
- Savoy: Melanie Glynn*
- DesignNine: Jack Maytum
- WiValley: Brian Foucher
- Hub66: Andrea Vient, CEO of Hub 66
- Interisle: Steve Harris

*Voting Members

Other participants: Sarah Satterthwaite, H. Hamdan, Brittany Wolcott
 Note: there may have been other callers who did not identify themselves.

Quorum, Call to Order

A quorum was established, and the Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm.

Review and approve minutes from the February meeting

Minutes of the February 17 meeting were approved unanimously as written by the voting members present.

➤ **Brian’s report**

What the final network looks like:

- We finally got the OK to erect our pole on Borden Mt and connect to network, though we didn’t have time to install all equipment prior to winter onset.
- We’ve installed 35 poles, largely as originally planned, and lit 34 sites.
- We are finalizing an indemnity agreement between Savoy and the other three towns and WiValley for an easement at the Borden site.

Where we still lack coverage:

- Since Borden was the last site due to bureaucratic obstacles – not the first as originally planned – we’ve had to live with a jury-rigged network in the interim, with many households receiving no service or less than originally planned.

- Brian expects to shortly address poor coverage at Sarah's house.

What the future expansions might look like:

- New infrastructure monies will enable us to begin fiber buildout and fulfill our original project goals to release the 30 percent of funds being withheld by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI).
- Otelco has undergone changes and is no longer providing service to WiValley customers. They were acquired by GoNetSpeed who is providing that service.

Changes at WiValley:

- WiValley is in negotiations to be acquired by Hub66 – a women-owned service provider in Action MA that connects rural communities and businesses throughout New England with affordable, high-speed fiber and wireless service.
- Hub66 will provide customer support should FHMS towns agree to acquisition of WiValley.
- MBI has to sign off on acquisition as well as future funding proposals.

➤ **Total homes connected and number in each town**

A total of 367 homes have been connected:

- 95 in Florida
- 120 in Hawley
- 31 in Monroe
- 121 in Savoy

➤ **Comments, questions, testimonials**

Kevin pointed out that affordable wireless is the major selling point for the FHMS network and that not everyone will want to subscribe to more costly fiber service. Brian said that current service options will be maintained for seven years, but couldn't say after that.

➤ **Next meeting date**

Lark said he would notify via email of a future date.

➤ **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

