





## Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

			
<b>Florida, MA</b>	<b>Hawley, MA</b>	<b>Monroe, MA</b>	<b>Savoy, MA</b>

### FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

A teleconference meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place on Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 4:30 pm. (Note: This meeting was recorded.) These are the Minutes of that Meeting.

## MEETING MINUTES

#### **In Attendance:\***

Hawley: Lark Thwing\* & Rick Kean  
 Florida: Christine Dobbert\*  
 Monroe: David Gagne\* (absent)  
 Savoy: John Tynan\*  
 DesignNine: Jack Maytum  
 WiValley: Brian Foucher  
 Otelco: Trevor Jones (absent)  
 Interisle: Steve Harris & Fred Goldstein

Minutes  
 Unanimously  
 Approved,  
 FHMS Four-Towns  
 Committee,  
 March 4, 2021

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\*Voting Members

#### Additional Teleconference Participants:

Cindy Bosley	Stephanie Pare	Sarah Satterthwaite
Melanie Glynn	Kevin Poirot	
Eric Leclair	Randall Ross	

Note: there may have been other callers who did not identify themselves.

➤ **Quorum, Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:37 pm without a quorum and proceeded in an information sharing mode until a third member arrived at the phone conference at approximately 4:47 pm.

➤ **Review and approve minutes from the Dec 3, 2020 meeting.**

Once the third voting member joined the group, the Minutes of the December 3 meeting were approved unanimously.

➤ **Report from Brian on:**

• **What has not been completed on Phase 3 and when will it be complete?**

Brian reported that MBI considered Phase III complete as of the 18th of December 2020. However, National Grid will have to swap out one pole on East Hawley Road, and a pole hearing has been scheduled by the Town for that one.

• **How many customers have been connected to Phase 3 sites and how many, total?**

Brian said that 49 customers have been connected to Phase 3 sites and a total of 207 customers have been connected.

• **... And the number of connected customers in each town?**

Brian responded as follows:

- 65 in Florida;
- 45 in Hawley;
- 18 in Monroe; and,
- 79 in Savoy.

• **When will CAF2 testing be done so Phase 3 report can be submitted?**

A dry run test will be run next week, and then the CAF2 test will be run. With the results being simultaneously monitored by MBI, DesignNine, Interisle and WiValley. Brian said he hopes to complete the entire process in early February.

• **Status of all Phase 4 sites including utility company connections.**

Brian indicated that all Phase 4 poles excluding Borden Mountain have been installed. Several are complete except for Nation Grid to connect power.

• **Status of the Heath Special Permit for pole in Heath.**

Brian said they would test next week to make sure that the two houses can be reached. That would be followed by a follow-up planning board meeting and possible decision.

- **Who do we think should own the Borden Mountain facilities we build?**

Brian indicated that Lark had submitted the drawings this past week. Next, a certified letter needs to be sent. Brian said he hopes to complete the paperwork in early February. His understanding is that DCR would own the pole and building, and FHMS/WiValley would own the equipment and electronics and have exclusive use of the facility.

- **Status of CBRS deployment and explanation of why CBRS is expected to be a game changer.**

Brian: Two CBRS sites will be installed in early February.

CBRS has a higher power level and its LTE transmission has better vegetation penetration, increasing the robustness of data *transmission*. Its protected spectrum is more controlled, noise levels are more controlled, and interference is minimized.

- **What is the network redundancy at this time?**

Brian: Links that are being added at multiple sites and fiber at Florida Town Hall will provide triple backhaul redundancy.

- **Where are network problems such as at FLO-BLI and HAW-EHR and what needs to be done to resolve them?**

Brian: Implementing CBRS will alleviate many of those problems.

- **How to address the homes that cannot get service from poles we expected would provide it such as Norcross near HAW-STE?**

Brian: We're working on a custom connection from HAW-STE to 330/332 W Hawley Rd. We will decide on how to approach any others once all sites are up. The goal is to connect everyone.

- **Get Certification of Completion of Phase 3 to the towns for signing by Select Boards.**

This was an informal discussion between Chairman Lark and the other voting members of the FHMS Committee, regarding logistics of getting the Phase III completion documents signed and returned to Lark for transmission to MBI.

- **Discussion of any customer service issues.**

- Melanie Glynn reported that she is still getting dropped for approximately 90 sec intervals, and that didn't hear back from Otelco. Stephanie Pare has the same issues, she indicated. Brian stated that CBRS should resolve both cases.
- Sarah Satterthwaite said she is still waiting for new equipment which was supposed to be received in December. What's the status? Brian said that Sarah's road in Savoy (Chapel) is slated to be one of the first to receive CBRS – look for it in February.

➤ **How can we boost the backlog of customers waiting for installation?**

Brian said he felt it was a bit premature to address this issue since CBRS is not yet fully deployed.

➤ **Comments from Otelco or Design Nine?**

There were none.

➤ **Other business?**

There was none.

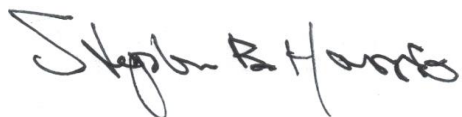
➤ **Schedule next meeting date.**

The date for the next meeting was set for Thursday, March 4, 2021, at 4:30 pm.

➤ **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Harris



Rick Kean

2/9/2021

To access the recording, use this link: <https://fccdl.in/tf6IAxRZQ9>