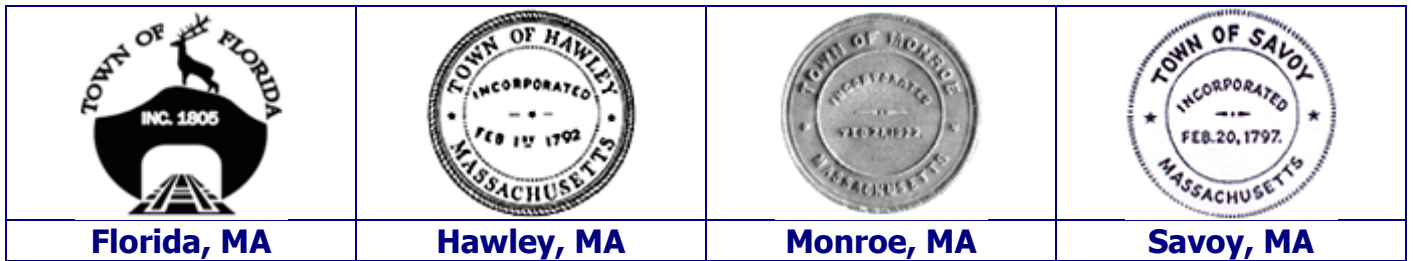


Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes



FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

A teleconference meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place on Thursday, March 4, 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
Approved,
FHMS Four-Towns
Committee,
June 17, 2021

*Voting Members

Additional Teleconference Participants:

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

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

➤ **Quorum, Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

➤ **Review and approve minutes from the Jan 21, 2021 meeting.**

Minutes of the January 21 meeting were approved unanimously.

➤ **Report from Brian on:**

- **How many customers have been connected to Phase 3 sites and how many, total connected customers in each town?**

Brian said that 50 customers have been connected to Phase 3 sites and a total of 230 customers have been connected:

- 66 in Florida;
- 57 in Hawley;
- 24 in Monroe; and,
- 83 in Savoy.

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

Brian reports that testing has been done and expects to submit his report to MBI first thing tomorrow.

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

Brian reports that power was connected to haw-ehc and haw-plf on Tuesday. HAW-EHC went live today. Remaining sites are Plainfield Road in Hawley and MHA and MHD in Savoy on Route 116. We have power at the Plainfield site and hope to have it operational next week.

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

Brian said they were advised by their attorney that they were going down the wrong path, so they requested withdrawal of the application from the Planning Board and are applying for an Grant of Location application to the selectboard. Lark reported that the Planning Board rejected their letter of withdrawal and the permit application. Basically, they are starting over with the selectboard.

- **Status of CBRS equipment, training and deployment.**

Brian: All base stations have been programmed and tied in to the Google server, so CBRS is fully operational on the bench. The first two base stations will be installed on Chapel next week and they will start testing actual customers that are slated to swap out.

- **Status of Borden Mtn permits-High Ground permit and Construction Access permit**

Good progress – the Lt. Governor got involved. Once the snow is gone, we'll be meeting onsite with all the state agencies to expedite the permit.

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

Brian: The only redundancy at this time is through Thayer in Monroe. A significant portion of the redundancy will be via Borden Mountain. Working with Otelco to get a second fiber line hooked up at the Florida town hall to provide additional redundancy.

- **Where are current, if any, network problems?**

Brian: Working on Bliss in Florida and identifying other areas where we're not getting good service. CBRS may resolve several of these issues. Looking with Fred at other sites we may need to fill in, including at Brier Road in Savoy. These can be better identified once CBRS and Borden Mountain are deployed.

- **We need to discuss the need for an additional "technology" fee and how to apply it -- to everyone or just those who receive the technology.**

CBRS licensing and deployment costs are significantly greater than original estimates, plus there may be other costs beyond those originally estimated when the fee structure was set up. After extensive discussion, a motion was approved to levy an annual "FHMS fee" to cover any overages, to be uniformly applied to all subscribers.

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

DesignNine will require another contract extension. There have been continued complaints that Otelco is not responsive to customers.

- **Other business?**

South County Road pole in Florida may have to be moved. It is installed beside a town school bus turnaround away from houses so as not to interfere with anyone's view. However, it was found to be about five feet over the easement on the property of one of the houses served. It was determined that the simplest solution is to request a new hearing to move the pole to the other side of the turnaround on the town's right of way. Alternately, it was agreed to offer the owner \$2K to keep the pole where it is, provided the property owner obtain a legal easement from the town.

- **Schedule next meeting date.**

The date for the next meeting was set for Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 4:30 pm.

- **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steve Harris



Rick Kean

3/6/2021

To access the recording, use this link: <https://fccdl.in/jOp2da5LbP>