

Town of Florida, MA

Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail, Drury, MA 01343

FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting
-and-
Town of Hawley Communications Committee Meeting (if quorum)

A meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place at the Florida Town Hall on Thursday, March 5th, 2020 at 4:30 pm. (Note: This meeting, originally scheduled for February 13th, was postponed until the March 5 date.)

M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

In Attendance:

Florida:	Christine Dobbert*, Cindy Bosley, Ron Bosley
Hawley:	Lark Thwing*, Rick Kean
Monroe:	David Gagne*
Savoy:	John Tynan* (absent)
Project Manager:	Jack Maytum, DesignNine (via phone)
InterIsle:	Steve Harris
Others: _____	Gita Jozsef, Laury Will

*Voting Members

Minutes Approved, FHMS Four-Towns Committee, April 30, 2020

- **Call to Order:** Chairman Lark Thwing declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.
- **Minutes from the January 9, 2020 meeting:** These minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously by the voting members present.
- **Minutes from all Executive sessions related to Legate Hill:** The **Executive Session Minutes** from the 8/22/2019, 10/24/2019 and 11/21/2019 meetings were reviewed and approved by the voting members present. Chairman Thwing subsequently directed that those Executive Session Minutes be posted to the FHMS Broadband Website, on the "Minutes" archive to be found at <http://www.townofhawley.com/broadband-in-hawley/>

- **Update on OML complaint:** Lark reported that there had been no new conversation or correspondence regarding the Open Meeting Law complaint since the January 9, 2020 meeting.
- **Update on Brian's report for MBI and OTELCO:** Lark stated that the Towns all need to approve Brian's report, as modified via input from MBI.
- **Steps needed to get WiValley paid.** Brian Foucher explained that:
 - **Pole supply and strategic positioning** challenges have made it necessary to modify the Phases of the project. Phase A is now the Borden Mountain tower solution, Phase AA is the group of poles that has been activated in Hawley, Monroe, Florida and Monroe, and Phase B is for the poles that have been installed but are not activated yet.
- **Brian's update:**
 - Brian led a detailed discussion of what poles (both point-to-point and user-targeted) had been installed and were yet to be installed. Despite delays caused by weather and early Corona virus issues, some progress had been made.
 - Brian reported that as of the date of this meeting, 54 customers had been hooked up (mostly in Savoy and Florida), 6 were "on-deck" and 24 were ready to be scheduled.
 - Brian also asked if anyone had spoken with the owners of the new house under construction at 214 East Hawley Road (Lawless property). Rick Kean said he'd spoken with Bill Lawless on the phone in conjunction with his duties as an Assessor. Brian indicated his feeling that the location was a potentially strategic one, and on that basis, Rick agreed to call Mr. Lawless to set up a meeting.
- **Status of Borden Mountain pole:** Brian stated that for the moment, he is allowing the consulting firm to run with the permitting process. Nothing new to report as of this meeting.
- **Customer feedback to OTELCO, WiValley or anyone else:**

- Lark reported that he had encountered some less-than-positive feedback from Hawley customers while serving as election officer during the recent primary election. Customers were having some problems with speed and/or reliability of signal.
 - Brian replied that in one case, the speed problem was being caused by a computer virus on the customer's internal computer system, and that he had not been able to reach the others at the time of the meeting.
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- **Should we change WiValley priorities for up to one month, to focus on customer installations?** This question was thrown open to the group, and while the general consensus was that more focus should be placed on signing up new customers, particularly where fully-configured poles were in plain view of potential customer locations in Florida and Savoy, Brian reserved the right to continue to install poles when a strategic opportunity presented itself.
 - **What is the workaround for the loss of the Legate Hill site?** Brian explained that a pole installation recently accomplished (and subsequently moved about 100 yards at the property owner's request) on East Hawley Road would help provide the redundancy needed to supply the East Hawley area.
 - **Any other business not anticipated:** Brian noted that the Corona virus was creating a UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply) shortage (as most are manufactured in China). While Brian said he had ordered as many domestically sourced UPS's as he could find, this shortage would likely push off project completion to July or August.
 - **Set next meeting:** The next meeting was set for Thursday, April 30 at 4:30 pm at the Town of Florida Town Hall.
 - **Adjournment:** Chairman Thwing adjourned the meeting at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Kean
4/7/2020