

# Town of Florida, MA

Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail, Drury, MA 01343

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

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A meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee was held at the Florida Town Hall on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 pm.

## MINUTES

### **In Attendance:**

Florida: Christine Dobbert\*  
Hawley: Lark Thwing\*  
Monroe: David Gagne\*  
Savoy: John Tynan\*  
WiValley: Brian Foucher  
DesignNine: Jack Maytum (conferenced in)  
Interisle: Steve Harris

\*Voting member

Minutes Unanimously Approved, FHMS Four-Towns Committee, July 25, 2019
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**Call to Order:** FHMS Four Towns Chairman Lark Thwing declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

**Minutes:** The group reviewed the minutes of the prior meeting (March 21, 2019) and accepted them with no changes.

**Financial status:** Lark reported that now that monies have been received all bills have been paid for DesignNine, etc.

### **Press release:**

Steve noted that Rick had pointed out that the MBI press release had stated that "A portion of the premises in the four towns will have access to internet speeds of 12 mbps for uploads and 2 mbps for downloads." The error carried over to the Berkshire Eagle report, but nobody appears to have noticed.

## **Status of Network Build:**

Brian reported that the cold, windy weather has slowed progress, but the Savoy monopole is up, antennas are being installed, conduits for fiber and power are laid, and he expects everything will be hooked up and ready to go shortly. He is working with the Savoy electrical inspector and requested contact info for the building and electrical inspectors for the other towns.

Customers will be offered free temporary service with no guarantees until June 1. Otelco will hopefully start reaching out to customers next week (April 15-19).

Brian has reached out to DCR re the path forward on Borden. Will need structural drawing and determination on whether a separate monopole will be required. Brian expects that AccessPlus will provide redundant access from Borden to the monopole next week.

Brian is working with Eversource on a unified power solution that won't require a permit & metering for each pole. He will do the same with National Grid.

Point-to-point antennas for Florida, Hawley, Savoy & Borden will be installed tomorrow and will test signals next week to pinpoint the pole locations for Phase I.

Where the network poles are located across the street from existing power lines, Eversource and National Grid will own the secondary poles to bring power across the street, and will arrange for permits and pole hearings for them.

MBI has backed off on 100% pre-testing, with the understanding that necessary adjustments will be made as we go along. There will be additional CAF II testing requirements, which Brian will discuss with Fred Goldstein.

Brian and Fred will devise workarounds for the current "no service" customer locations, for those in Hawley in particular.

**Review of first two WiValley Weekly Reports:**

Particulars of the first two reports were not discussed, but Jack provided sample reporting format with specific checks of issues and summary bar charts. Lark remarked that these details are especially needed to track multiple steps required for various tasks, to assure that we identify issues and prevent unforeseen delays.

**Status of Pole Hearings in Savoy, Monroe, and Rowe:**

Marcella Stafford-Gore is assembling information required for the pole hearings in Monroe.

Savoy will hold its Old Main pole hearing on April 25.

Arrangements are being made with the Rowe MLP director David Dvore to hold the hearing for the pole in Rowe to serve customers in Monroe Bridge. The FHMS network will, in turn serve Rowe's two orphan customers on Tunnel Road.

As noted, Eversource and National Grid will arrange for secondary pole hearings.

**Any other business not anticipated at the time of posting:**

None.

**Adjourn:** Lark adjourned the meeting at 5:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Harris  
April 13, 2019