

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

Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes - **Draft**

A virtual meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place on Thursday, August, 19, 2021. (Note: Due to atmospheric difficulties this meeting was **not** recorded electronically.)

In Attendance:

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

Minutes
 Approved,
 FHMS Four-Towns
 Committee,
 10/21/21

*Voting Members

Additional Teleconference Participants:

Jason Burdick

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.

➤ **Review and approve minutes from the June meeting**

Minutes of the June meeting were approved unanimously as written.

➤ **Welcome the newly appointed alternate town reps.**

No new alternate reps were on the call.

➤ **Project updates:**

● **Status of sav-mha and sav-mhd poles**

The two poles are fully installed, active, and able to serve customers.

● **Status of Borden Mountain permit**

- Fieldstone Consulting report

Brian indicated he has the report in hand, but he did not discuss the findings. It is part of the ENF submittal.

- Article 97 legislation

The legislation is on the agenda and ready to go. Appraisal will be needed for the amount of land we will remove from conservation, likely a small \$\$\$ amount, to be paid by WiValley or if too large, by the four towns. Savoy will not be on the hook for these expenses.

- VHB consultants doing Environmental Notification Form etc.

Draft Form has been submitted to WiValley.

- ENF submittal to MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Agency)

Form has not been submitted. We are waiting for DCR signature on MESA forms.

- Support letters to MEPA

Need to resend once we submit the ENF to MEPA and get a file #. Awaiting signature from DCR on MESA form..

- Possible actions if MEPA approval before Article 97 approval

- Obtain temporary approval to get started on the project.
- Customer installations can start once full approval is received, hopefully in the near future, otherwise, depending on weather, we may have to wait until next spring.

● **Total installed customers and totals by town**

A total of 295 customers have been connected:

- 72 in Florida;
 - 93 in Hawley;
 - 29 in Monroe; and,
 - 101 in Savoy.
- 295 total

- **Possible new pole locations**

A new pole is needed on Tilton Road in Savoy, for which a hearing must be scheduled.

- **CBRS Deployment & issues**

Brian said we have had much greater success with the newer high-gain CBRS antennas, with customers now receiving 25/3 Mbps or better service. These were not available until very recently.

- **Network problems/issues/solutions/lost customers**

Most complaints come from 900 MHz customers receiving intermittent service.

- **Questions from attendees**

Melanie raised issues re two Savoy customers. She also said that customers being charged for 25 Mbps are actually receiving less than 25/3 but more than 12/2 mbps. Brian explained that speed tests are conducted when nobody is on the network, the required protocol for the MBI tests, which likely explains the discrepancies.

Brian discussed hotspot deployment at the South County Road pole in Florida with Jason. Lark reported that hotspots appear to provide ~18 Mbps service. Rick said that was consistent with his experience, though his prime concern was the stability of his connection.

- **Other issues not anticipated at time of posting**

There were none.

- **Next meeting date/time/mode.**

The next meeting was slated for October, date, time and mode TBD.

- **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

