

Town of Florida, MA

Town Hall

379 Mohawk Trail, Drury, MA 01343

FHMS Four-Town Broadband Committee Meeting

A meeting of the FHMS 4-Town Broadband Committee was held at the Florida Town Hall on Thursday, November 21st, at 6:00 pm.

MEETING MINUTES

In Attendance (*voting member):

Hawley: Lark Thwing,* Rick Kean
Florida: Christine Dobbert,* Cindy Bosley
Monroe: David Gagne*
Savoy: John Tynan* (Absent)
DesignNine: Jack Maytum
WiValley: Brian Foucher
OTELCO: Trevor Jones (Absent)
Interisle: Steve Harris
Others: Dita Harris, Linda Jones,
Paris Finley, Laury Wills,
Jonathan Mirin

Minutes
Approved,
FHMS Four-Towns
Committee,
January 9, 2020

Call to Order:

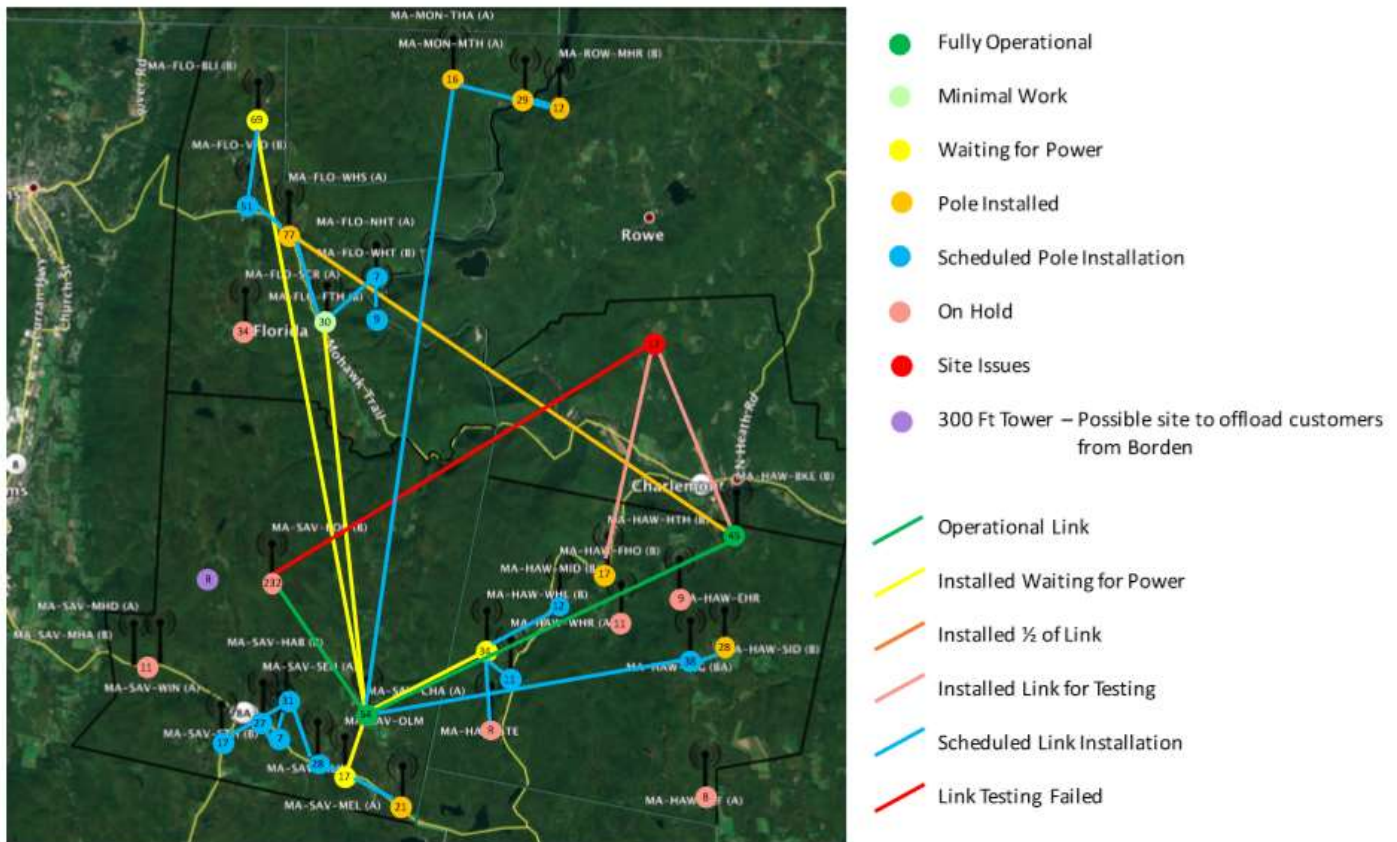
A quorum was declared and the meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.

1. Review and acceptance of minutes:

The minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved by the voting members present.

2. Status update from Brian Foucher, concerning:

- **Network Progress Chart:** Brian introduced this entire section of the meeting by presenting the following chart (next page):



As Brian explained, the chart uses color-codes to show poles that have been erected or are scheduled to be erected and the links they are intended to create. It also shows operational links, links still awaiting power, 1/2 links, and testing links.

It also uses a color-coded dot system to indicate the status of individual pole sites. Status designations include:

- Fully Operational
- Minimum Work Needed
- Waiting for Power
- Pole Installed (only)
- Scheduled Pole Installation
- Pole on Hold
- Site Issues
- 300 Foot Tower

Each pole site includes a number that indicates how many customers it could serve.

Brian noted that one of the more significant installations accomplished during the past month was the replacement of the temporary pole at Berkshire East Ski Resort (20' AGL) with a permanent one (70'). It was accomplished with the help of the Berkshire East crew and will open several customers to the live network.

- **Acceptability Tests.** Brian said he is holding some installations until their viability as network nodes can be verified through testing. (Test results at the Legate Hill site failed.) Seven sites are currently on hold for this reason. This is particularly important, he said, now that Cap2 funding is involved.
- **Possible Beyond-Boundary Network Expansion.** Brian reported that he had been contacted by the Town of Readsboro, VT about the possibility of expanding the network to include that town. The conversation is very preliminary at this point, but it might provide another path for providing redundancy and Q/C to the Four Towns network.
- **Current Active Customers.** As of the 11/21/19 Four Towns Broadband Committee meeting, there were 24 active customers on the network, served by the Chapel location in Savoy and Berkshire East in Hawley. That number should begin to increase more rapidly.
- **Status of Borden Mountain site:** still being pursued but winter may slow it down. Not our major focus yet.
- **Status of existing poles waiting for electricity:** Brian indicated that the goal for Bliss Hill, West Hill Rd and Oleson are to have power connected and customers beginning to be connected between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- **Status of MBI Next Payments to WiValley:** Brian reported that MBI had relaxed the requirement that he prove that all vendors had been paid before receiving follow-on payments. However, there is

still some confusion about Phase IA payments, and Town authorization procedures need to be complied with.

- **New Problems:** Brian said there were no new problems except snow, which did already slow down operations at one test site. He reported that OTELCO had hired a new project manager, with whom he had just spoken for the first time, and he was hoping she would help offload some administrative tasks.
- 3. Jack Maytum, DesignNine:** Jack spoke about two things (1) Extending the length of the DesignNine project, which he said he would personally support; and, (2) About the need to continue to find ways to increase redundancy and make sure the network could achieve the needed 96% @ 25/3. He said DesignNine had the software and expertise to measure, track and calibrate both of those things.
 - 4. Executive Session:** FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee meeting adjourned in favor of an Executive Session to discuss legal issues at 6:35 pm.
 - 5. Reconvene:** The FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee meeting reconvened at 7:05 pm.
 - 6. Other items of business** not previously anticipated. Rick handed out direct links to the FHMS page on the Town of Hawley website as a precaution, as the website was not working properly.
 - 7. Set date for next meeting.** The date for the next meeting was set for 4:30 pm, January 9, 2020.

Adjourn: This FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rick Kean
11/24/19