

			
<b>Florida, MA</b>	<b>Hawley, MA</b>	<b>Monroe, MA</b>	<b>Savoy, MA</b>

## Four Towns Broadband Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the FHMS Four Towns Broadband Committee took place at the Hawley Town Office on Thursday, September 7, 2023.

### In Attendance:

Hawley: \*Hussain Hamdan, Lark Thwing  
 Florida: \*Cindy Bosley, \*Kevin Poirot, Joan Lewis (TA)  
 Monroe: No representation  
 Savoy: \*Melanie Glynn, \*Sarah Satherthwaite  
 WiValley: Brian Foucher

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### \*Voting Members

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

#### ➤ **Quorum, Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 4:32 pm. Quorum established 5:00pm

#### ➤ **Review and approve minutes from the April meeting –**

- April 6, 2023 and July 10, 2023 were meeting minutes approved without further discussion. HH/CB

#### ➤ **Roles & responsibilities**

Lark will resume as chair of FHMS with Hussain as alternate from Hawley. Melanie will be minutes taker provided there is a zoom recording.

#### ➤ **Brian's report**

Draft documents have been written in anticipation of RFA/RFP and with future partners in mind for a fiber to the home proposal.

#### ➤ **Homes connected:**

- 96 Florida.
- 32 Monroe.
- 121 Hawley.
- 126 Savoy.

#### ➤ **375 total**

- Telerad had lots of issues. Installed 900 in 2 of the sectors. Now there is full deployment. Original plan was no 900 but it is giving better performance.
- Fencing is targeted for the end of September. Generator before November.
- WiValley hired new tech from Hawley. Should help out with support in the area.
- Hub66 is still interested and another entity, larger, with a presence in MA is showing more interest in acquiring and providing fiber to the home and use current infrastructure. Unable to provide more details, but hopefully can at the next meeting. This will provide increased reliability. Otelco/GoNetSpeed will be out of the picture with the new company. Brian will meet with each town to introduce when this happens. Brian has identified areas in each town that are a concern and has a plan in place run fiber.

Question regarding pole permits: All poles used by FHMS belong to FHMS/town insured.

- **Future of FHMS project: wireless, fiber, and hybrid options.**

- Current infrastructure will remain per the original agreement, 6-7 more years.
- Discussion around state funding make ready for those areas underserved. Gets complicated with those areas awarded RDOF funding. Lark will reach out to Michael and MBI to discuss. May follow up with a letter to the state.
- New anticipated funding is geared to specific locations that do not receive at least 100/20 and that does not have RDOF build out. All of Hawley and Monroe should qualify and received 100/20. No monies flow to the town, but between the winning contractor and MBI. Homes included in RDOF funding is not eligible.
- Hawley sought information from WG&E/Whip City. Buildout would be ~\$2M. Concerns about financing and funding not resolved.
- MLP may be required by each town. Hawley has established an MLP.

- **Hawley Website for document retention**

- Materials will return to the Hawley website in 3-4 weeks.

- **Other questions or topics not elsewhere anticipated.**

- Cindy will no longer be part of the FHMS committee. Alternate to be identified in Florida.
- Brian to attend SB meetings over the next couple months to bring the towns up to speed. Many SB have changed. MBI approved slide could be included also with what is expected from MBI during this next funding round. Asset turnover documentation could be provided and reviewed.

- **Next meeting date**

October 5, at 4:30 pm at the Hawley Town Hall.

- **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, *Melanie Glynn*