



MINUTES

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting

April 11, Saturday, 9:00am

86 Pond Road

Rowe, MA

Welcome and Introductions - Monica welcomed the delegates and thanked our hosts. The attendees introduced themselves.

Approval of minutes - March 25, 2015 meeting – tabled to give everyone an opportunity to review. Steve noted the resolution passed on March 7th was not reflected in the minutes for that date. To correct this oversight, a copy of the resolution will be attached to this set of minutes to ensure the resolution is properly entered into the official record.

Report from the Chair – Monica reviewed the Financial Information sessions that took place yesterday and indicated that both sessions were recorded and an online link will be provided. Delegates asked for a summary of what was covered by bond counsel and financial advisors. Jim indicated we would post contact information for financial advisors. Steve overviewed the reasons for the formation of the new coop. Some discussion ensued, including a lengthy discussion regarding ownership of the asset. Jim discussed that in year one there would be some operational funds that would be necessary. Jim will explore obtaining this funding via the MBI grant process. MBI upcoming meetings are being held and will focus on the grant process and may not be necessary for towns that are committed to being part of the WiredWest regional network, since WiredWest will be applying for the grant on its towns' behalf.

Key Elements of the Business Plan – Elements are currently being developed by EC members and Seth Isman (Hilltown CDC) has been made available to WW and tasked with compiling the document and doing the editing; expect to have a plan published within 2-3 weeks. Some of the operational pieces that could be subcontracted are VoIP, customer service, billing, and perhaps network operations.

WiredWest Policy on Distance to Premise Update – David Kulp, Monica, and Becky Torres reported that the committee met and had preliminarily developed some new recommendations (i.e. increasing allowance from “2 poles or 300 feet” to “5 poles or 750 feet”). Jim remains concerned about the costs. Cartesian's costs were estimated based on the scenario in a suburban environment. We still need to certify Cartesian's assumptions to be sure make ready is included. Jim will support that change pending verification of Cartesian's numbers. Additionally, people with non-standard installations (without poles or conduit with available capacity) would receive an allowance. A proposal was suggested that private communities could be wired with poles at WiredWest expense or an allowance toward conduit. Steve requested we clarify the language surrounding the startup or connection fee. Jim moved

that **WiredWest extend the driveway cabling allowance for premises that sign up during the initial sign up period in their town from the existing policy of 300 feet to 750 feet on existing poles with capacity or in existing conduit with capacity or provide an allowance in the equivalent.** Monica seconded. All in favor with Glenn abstaining.

Draft By Laws – Steve discussed the process for developing the bylaws for the new WiredWest operating cooperative and the procedures for towns to proceed. Said bylaws will need to be adopted by the members of the new coop. A Governance committee meeting will be scheduled and copies of the draft bylaws will be made available before the next board meeting and will be placed on the agenda.

Get out the Vote - – On the advice of a former state representative, Monica shared ideas for getting out the vote: the best predictor of the people who are likely to vote are those who have voted in the past election. Get that info from Town Clerk and call them. The other group to target (2nd priority) are the supporters of the Fiber Town campaign

- Key Messages Presentation. Monica reviewed the core values of the organization (affordable, universal, financially sustainable robust internet) and detailed how our current plans of acting regionally reinforce those values and enhance the success of this project. Jean will post the “So you like your DSL” document.

Fiber Town Subscription Campaign Update – Monica reviewed the status of the subscription campaign. A number of delegates asked for the data from the crowdfiber site and signed the appropriate confidentiality document and data request. Jean to fulfill this set of requests.

Committee Reports

- Marketing – covered above
- Governance / Legal / Town Paperwork – Steve covered governance above; Jean urged any towns who had MLP paperwork deficiencies to be certain they are resolved prior to forming the new coop.
- Finance – covered above
- Town Liaison – Becky announced upcoming meetings.

Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting

Confirm and Schedule next BoD meetings

TENTATIVE: April 25th or April 29th in Northampton (Becky will poll the delegates)
May 9th in Egremont at 9:00 am
June 13th in Colrain (tentative)

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.