

**WiredWest Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Date / time:** Monday, May 9, 2016 2:00 PM,

**Location / address:** Hampshire Council of Governments, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA

Meeting called to order at: 6:15

EC Members present: Monica Webb, Rebecca Torres, Charley Rose, Bob Labrie, MaryEllen Kennedy

Others present: Kimberley Longey, Steve Nelson, Tim Newman

Note: Meeting room was unavailable, so brief meeting held outside.

1. MBI Update

No discussion.

1. Committee Updates

No discussion.

1. Discussion of meeting with Gov. Baker

Kimberly spoke with Steve Kulik, he stated that the new appointments for the Last Mile project reflect legislature’s concern about MBI and will increase visibility of the project to the administration. Kimberly will stress that we need action, a direct plan and the ability of the towns to influence the project. Steve wants Middlefield [wireless] pilot to go ahead. We don’t want to interfere with towns which choose wireless, but don’t think the fiber build should have to wait until it completes. That pilot is preferable to the proposed $500,000 wireless study.

Monica spoke with Smitty Pignatelli, who has low expectations for the meeting – “Agenda and attendance chosen to shape the conversation”. He reported Mt. Washington is ready for a fiber build, when he tried to confirm that MBI would reimburse was getting pushback that town can’t afford it.

Charley will discuss regionalization. Monica stressed it provides sustainability.

Kimberly will also highlight the work done to adapt the business model; we have been responsive to MBI critique.

Our asks for the meeting: Town self-determination and a working session between WiredWest and the decision makers for the Last Mile project. *The meeting should end with scheduling that session.*

1. RFI estimates update

Monica was given a contact (by Royalston) of someone who does lightweight RFIs

1. Review April 30, WiredWest Board meeting in Sandisfield

Tim Newman has an updated regionalization document, some followup still needed. There was concern about the page title mentioning “outsourcing,” which was relieved when Tim read the opening paragraphs which explain why it’s used in the model.

1. Agenda and preparation for the May 21, WiredWest Board meeting

Tabled until next meeting

1. Review other ongoing work, including meetings, conference calls

Bob Labrie met with Hampshire Gazette reporter; her article, not published was held for another reporter. There was a followup meeting with the managing editor (Bob, Tim Newman and Monica Webb) who asked for more information about WiredWest and the project which they will send to him.

Kimberly had a number of responses which feel that WiredWest is unwilling to change. Charley suggested that Outreach should focus on correcting this.

Monica reported she’s working on “one touch makeready” (for Ting) where a list of approved contractors can do all the makeready moves and new fiber installation at once. This can greatly speed up the build. The towns should be able to pass this; it will be much harder to pass a state law.

1. Other business which could not be reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of meeting
2. Set next EC meeting – Wednesday, May 18 6:00pm Hampshire Council of Governments, 99 Main Street, Northampton, MA {before Outreach Committee)

Meeting adjourned at: 7:10pm