



MINUTES

WiredWest Board of Directors Meeting
Saturday, March 26, 9:30 am
Becket Town Hall, 557 Main St., Becket, MA

Welcome and Introductions - Noting a quorum present, Monica Webb (chair) called the meeting to order at 9:40 am. She welcomed all attendees and thanked our hosts, and especially Jeanne Pryor, for coordinating Becket's hospitality. She further welcomed town selectboards, mentioning that they are always welcome at our meetings. Monica also outlined meeting conduct and asked attendees to introduce themselves.

Approval of minutes - February 27, 2016 meeting – David Kulp moved, Al Canali seconded. All in favor, no abstentions.

Report from the Chair – Monica reviewed accomplishments and challenges of the organization and the long road and progress so far toward the goal of achieving last mile broadband.

Discussion of Executive Committee Nominations – Monica related that Jean Atwater-Williams will be stepping down as clerk and from the executive committee as of the end of April. She will continue as a delegate. There are currently 4 available slots on the EC. Two individuals have come forward to volunteer for the EC: Bob Labrie and Charlie Rose. Bob Labrie spoke briefly about his background, experience and qualifications. **Leslie Rule moved to appoint Bob Labrie to the EC; Lark Thwing seconded; all in favor, no abstentions.** Monica and Leslie Rule then shared a bit about Charlie Rose's background, experience and qualifications. **Lark Thwing moved to appoint Charlie Rose to the EC; Tom Wyatt seconded; All in favor, no abstentions.**

Outreach Committee Report - Bob Labrie mentioned there has been a large amount of information coming out from the the OC and they have received positive feedback. The website is being worked on but has not yet been published. The OC is looking for additional help on the website, in particular from people who have WordPress experience. An "annual report" is being developed in time for town meeting season. OC is researching wireless as well (because MBI is now putting wireless up as an option) and is looking for volunteers to help with that. A request was made for regular information to be made available for submission to publications (i.e. Town Newsletters/Newspapers).

Risk Analysis Report & Financial Report - Jim Drawe reported that RA team met this past Friday evening. They have reviewed as many areas of risk as possible, including liability. They are also looking at other municipal networks with the goal of understanding the reasons for the success or failure.

Technical Committee – (Holleran Greenburger was unable to attend) Jim reported that Holleran has developed an equipment and software list necessary for start up and is being checked by an engineering company for verification and pricing to help develop capex costs.

Negotiations Team Report - Kimberly Longey thanked the Negotiating Team for their hard work. She stated that she shared the passion for this project and layed out where we are now in the negotiation process. We have been in negotiations since late December. Kimberly reviewed the

history to date. Governor Baker's administration have been in lockstep with MTC & MBI and our legislators are in a change mode and may have changed their level of support. She reported that some progress has been made with MBI, although MBI does not recognize WiredWest as representing towns. MBI is actively rethinking policies that were in place 18 months ago. The NT recommends that we suspend active negotiations with MBI at this time and turn their attentions inward to the organization while keeping the lines of communications open with the MBI. The negotiations we were in with the MBI had the unfortunate effect of silencing WiredWest. The NT then reviewed the packet of information they prepared and distributed in advance of this meeting. After the presentation, Kimberly shared the consensus recommendation from the NT. At this point they believe that Plan A has a low chance of success. Plan B or B2 or hybrid would have a higher likelihood of success. We are under an extraordinary amount of scrutiny especially as it relates to ISP start up. They think the best use of our time is to figure out the path forward, get select boards on board and advocate loudly. It must be select boards reaching out to legislators and the governor. We are at an intervention junction. We should act as strongly as possible to advocate for WW. Director discussion followed.

Report on 3/22 meeting - Doug McNally reported that a group of strong WiredWest towns met to discuss that MBI has created far too much delay and suggested we work with select boards and ask them to communicate the urgent need to move forward with the building of this network. All agreed. There will be a meeting scheduled in Northampton on Saturday 4/2 at 9:30am to facilitate.

Other Director Input – Comcast cable towns are moving ahead with MBI. **Art Schwenger moved that we pursue and develop the concepts of Plan A-2 with an expanded plan that will also address start-up funding and such plan to be presented at the next regular board meeting. Russ Jolly (Rowe) seconded.** Discussion ensued. Doug called the question. Becky seconded. All in favor of moving the question. All in favor of the motion. No abstentions

Confirm and Schedule next BoD meetings –

Special Board Meeting, Saturday, April 2nd in Northampton at 9:30 am (Old Courthouse, 99 Main St. Northampton)

Regular Board Meeting, Saturday, April 23rd in Sandisfield at 9:30 am (Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road, Sandisfield)

Meeting adjourned at 1:30