

Leyden Broadband Committee Meeting
Informational Meeting at Wendell
March 10, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Minutes

Attendees:

Representatives from Charlemont, Colrain, Leverett, New Salem, Leyden
(Jeff Neipp, Bob Ryan and Al Woodhull), Shutesbury, Wendell and Warwick.

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the formation of an eight town cluster that would reach out to MBI as being ready to move forward together as a critical mass of subscribers able to leverage the \$\$ efficiencies of size as part of their implementation and ongoing operating cost. Each town would own its own assets, be responsible for the cost of construction within its borders as well as for any decisions necessary to build their own broadband infrastructure. When the time came to decide on a Network Operator and ISP, it could then be decided whether it would be best to so as a group or individually by town.

Originally, this concept had been envisioned as a group of contiguous towns, but the idea arose to include Leyden and Colrain as possible partners, insofar as we were considered "neighbors" in Franklin County and close enough to be seen as part of this group for purposes of meetings, and perhaps service.

The crucial question was exactly what "banding together" meant and what benefits could be gained by doing so. It became readily apparent that the biggest benefits associated with this type of cluster really did accrue to the contiguous towns. The ability of contiguous town to design backup capabilities into their networks to support each other when line failures occur is a huge customer service plus..

In that Leyden was not contiguous to Wendell, and many of the town's involved, the whole concept of joining this cluster made no sense for Leyden. Jeff Neipp subsequently sent a letter to the Wendell Select board stating such and thanking them for including Leyden in the meeting.

Respectively submitted,

Bob Ryan, Chair