

Leyden Broadband Committee Notes: 1st meeting, Leyden Town Hall 9/8/2015 7 p.m.
Submitted by Al Woodhull, September 22, 2015

Attendees and contact info:

Jeff Neipp antlerjahd@verizon.net 413-530-4277 (c)
Tom Luck tl@mowstore.com 624-5523 (h)
Bob Ryan rryan99@verizon.net 624-0225 (h)
Clint Davis askclint@gmail.com 774-4222 (h), 522-3416 (c)
Sheila Hourihan lshourihan@aol.com 774-5922(h)
David Curtis david_gb_curtis@yahoo.com 834-1622(c)
Al Woodhull aswoodhull@yahoo.com 773-3522(h) 348-1932(c)
Not present: Bob Anson banson3@verizon.net 774-5764(h)

After all present had introduced themselves Jeff suggested an agenda:

Select a chairperson and a secretary
Discuss goals for the committee
Decide how often and when to meet.

Bob Ryan was elected chairperson

Al volunteered to take notes for this meeting since he had already started doing so, but stated that he did not want to be secretary

We decided to meet monthly on the first Tuesday; next meeting to be October 6th

With regard to goals, Jeff stated that the Selectboard wants a recommendation on the MBI Broadband Planning Assistance Grant; whether to apply for a \$5K grant for Leyden or to let Leyden's \$5K allocation be pooled with those of other towns for use by the WiredWest.

The following topics discussed are not necessarily in the order that they were taken up:

Bob Ryan mentioned the process going on in Colrain, which at the urging of the Colrain Town Administrator has agreed to hear proposals from private companies to take over local broadband operation as an alternative to joining with a regional cooperative. David wants to hear what other providers have to propose, and will make arrangements for a representative of Crocker to come to Leyden.

Tom expressed concern about the number of premises MBI considers exist in Leyden, which determines the number (144) considered the 40% target required by WiredWest. Ask WiredWest about these numbers. Bob feels this number is too high. There was discussion as to whether some of the premises counted are really on the Town's address list, someone said the MBI count may have 40 too many. There was speculation about seasonally occupied homes, numbers like 12 and 20 were mentioned. Al pointed out that WiredWest has discussed special rate plans for seasonal residences – although no detailed policy has been developed there will be lower-cost options for those who want no service or reduced service during part of the year. There are some communities in the 32 WiredWest towns where the percentage of part-year residences is quite high.

There was discussion of the WiredWest business plan, whether there is a version newer than the one made available in June (answer from WW BoD meeting next day, no, the June version is the latest).