



# Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting April 7, 2016

## Committee members present:

Leanne Every  
Steve Harris

## Others present:

Participants from Becket, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Plainfield, Royalston, Savoy, Washington, and members of the MBI tech team

## Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

The MBI team discussed reorientation of MBI's broadband policies:

- There is a shift in focus to cost effectiveness and sustainability.
- It is acknowledged that a number of last mile towns will not be able to afford all-fiber solutions.
- Great strides have been made in wireless broadband, in terms of both increased speed and lower cost.
- It will be possible to deliver non-line-of-sight 25/3 Mbps service with forthcoming TV White Space solutions.
- Newer wireless equipment should be longer lived than older equipment that has to be replaced every few years.
- MBI staff members attended a Ubiquity Networks class.
- MBI to issue an RFP to conduct a "twelve-week" study of wireless feasibility for all of the last mile towns at an estimated cost of \$200-500K.

Royalston, Middlefield, Hawley, and Colrain reported on progress in implementing respective broadband solutions.

Set Thursday May 12 date for the next meeting, to be held in Hawley.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.