



Town of Middlefield Communications Committee

Open meeting April 26, 2017

Committee members present:

Leanne Every
Joe Kearns
Steve Harris

Others present:

Howard Knickerbocker
Tamarin Laurel-Paine

Minutes:

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm.

Held general broadband discussion:

- Now that last mile towns are assured access to their entire The new Last Mile Infrastructure Grant Program that gives towns full control over the development and construction of municipally-owned broadband networks.
- Grant awards will include both the “professional services” allocation and the “construction” allocation designated for each town – \$580K in Middlefield’s case.
- The ongoing Berkshire Eagle series on the Digital Divide, including towns’ complaints of poor Charter cable service.
- Unfolding events with MBI, including the transfer of grant responsibility to EOHED.
- Our recommendation to the Selectboard that the town apply to implement the Hybrid Broadband Project at an estimated cost of \$483K, which would entail no cost to Middlefield taxpayers.
- Our recommendation that the town engage with Westfield Gas + Electric to implement the project on a MLP-to-MLP basis.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.