

Montague Broadband Advisory Committee  
Tuesday November 13, 2018 at 5:00 PM

Attending: Kenn Hannah, Lisa Enzer, Rob Steinberg

Community member: Kevin Hart

1. Approved minutes from previous meeting- LE moved, KH 2nd, AIF
2. General discussion of last meeting December 2017 when Comcast representatives changed the method of connecting to “cable in conduit”. Committee members have heard from one person having issues with service, and informally referred her to Cable Advisory Committee.
3. Recommendations to the Select Board included conversation about the MLP and ramifications for the town. Although the MLP is not activated and needs certification by the state to proceed, the MLP board has the authority to procure equipment, create loans for which the town would be obligated, and can levy taxes. An MLP is essentially a Prudential Committee. Going forward the Montague Select Board and Town Administrator would need to scrutinize the purpose and value of activating such a committee prior to future application.
4. Successes of BBC: Both cable and fiber brought to the Montague Industrial Park allowing for the expansion and building of new businesses. This was Kevin Hart’s exclusive domain and he should be commended for initiative and follow through. Despite constant obstacles created by Massachusetts Broadband Initiative, high speed internet now serves 99.3% of the town. Additional outliers were included in the final Comcast build due to the perseverance of the BBC, i.e. Meadow Road was identified by contract with Cable Advisory Committee and yet was not fulfilled in the 10 years specified. After the BBC pressured Comcast\* to expand the number of residences to be served, Meadow Road was completed. Anecdotal reports of customers throughout the previously unserved area, indicate service is reliable, and responsiveness to complaints is reasonable.

One challenge that exists is the lack of infrastructure on Mineral Road where 8-12 dwellings cannot be served by broad band. Improved satellite options now exist and that is the suggested remedy at this time.

5. Vote to dissolve BBC- LE moved to dissolve the committee since it has reached or surpassed initial goal. Recommended that the Cable Advisory Committee convene, be apprised of the change, and charged to maintain the avenues of communication established with Comcast, state representatives, and other stakeholders since CAC negotiates on behalf of the town. KH2nd AIF.

Recommendation sent to the Select Board via Steve Ellis, Town Manager by RS.

6. Notes entered and read and approved by BBC members

*\*Mass Broadband Institute invitational meeting at U/Mass Amherst 5/24/16.*

*Announcement by Dan Glanville (Comcast) that Meadow Road was complete.*