



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town of Southwick

High Speed Internet Committee Minutes

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AMENDMENT #1

Monday, November 4th, 2019

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman, Doug Moglin
Vice Chairman, Pari Hoxha
Clerk, Alisha Sullivan
Secretary, Annalia Hanson
Chris Boyd
Marlene Quinlan

GUESTS: None.

MINUTES:

1. The meeting began at 6:40 PM. **Doug made a motion to accept the minutes of October 21st, 2019 as amended. Marlene seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was accepted.** The changes made were changing the spelling of Alisha's name, as it was spelt incorrectly.
2. To begin the meeting, Jim mentioned that it could be a conflict of interest to be on the committee, as his wife, Marlene is also a part of the committee. Doug mentioned he will look into this to be sure there will be no conflict. In conclusion, there will be no issue with both members to continue with the committee.
3. Marlene printed an article about a non-profit organization that provides technical assistance to communities about local solutions for sustainable community development in several areas, including broadband. Their role is to help communities build a plan for municipal networks. She did not contact the organization, and they are not local. Doug suggested contacting the non-profit to understand more about their intentions, etc.
4. Doug mentioned wanting to talk to Verizon about 5G. Also, he mentioned that the math from WG&E is straight forward. Surveying will be expensive regardless, but we will need an MLP (Municipal Light Plant) no matter what road we take as far as internet service. Though, customers do seem content with their service through WG&E, it was surprising to committee members that only 35% of people have switched to WG&E that the service is available to. The rates do compete with Comcast, but WG&E does have an "all in" price, which includes equipment, all for one price. Jim mentioned that in the future, our needs may change as far as what we need for internet service. Some consumers need fast internet, some may not.
5. Pari suggested having Comcast come in to explain their services in more depth. It may be difficult to do so, but Doug said he will contact them to try. It would be great to understand

further what they provide, and why it is superior to competing companies. He also mentioned that he will contact Verizon to hopefully have someone speak to the committee about 5G, as it is still a topic the committee would like to further understand.

6. All members agreed to attend another meeting on Monday, November 28th, 2019 at 6:30 PM.
7. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim. Marlene seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Annalia Hanson - Secretary