



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

# Town of Southwick

## *High Speed Internet Committee Minutes*

454 COLLEGE HIGHWAY, SOUTHWICK, MA 01077

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### AMENDMENT #1

**Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

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

**GUESTS:** None.

#### **MINUTES:**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:40 PM. Doug stated that the meeting was being recorded and asked if anyone in the audience was recording the meeting.
2. Changes to the minutes were made, including updating specific terms and abbreviations for the public to better understand the terminology used by committee members. **A motion was made by Alisha to accept the minutes as Amended and seconded by Jim. The motion passed unanimously.**
3. At the previous meeting, it was mentioned by Jim that he did not want any conflict with the town, as he is married to a fellow member, Marlene. Because the committees may only make suggestions, there will be no issues with the continuance of both members.
4. In prior meetings, the committee mentioned speaking with Verizon and/or Comcast to attend a meeting to familiarize members with several topics, including the potential to see 5G come to town in the future. This has had no success as of yet.
5. Marlene and Jim have been extremely active members of the committee. They have both done research and studying on several different subjects regarding internet. Beginning with the institute of local self-reliance, Marlene contacted the non-profit via e-mail. A volunteer answered her stating that the organization does not do direct consulting, but did refer her to The Community Network Quick Start. Marlene gave all members reading material, including links and additional information on this. Jim also suggested that beginning a glossary would benefit members and the public, as there are some unfamiliar terms members use. (I.E MLP means Municipal Light Plant). In the past, Wired West sought to help hill towns with community networks. The Nonprofit also wanted to become an operator of local networks, though this has yet to happen, and does not seem that it will happen in the future. Pari suggested reaching out to a member of Wired West to attend a meeting so that members can

ask questions pertaining to their intentions. Wired West has done many things to benefit communities, including offering surveys to see where fiber already is in towns.

6. Quickstart.com is a website that anyone can access, which allows one to zoom into a neighborhood to see where utility poles stand. Alisha suggested members take a look at this website prior to the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting to see how this site works.
7. Members mentioned the steps it takes to form an MLP. Firstly, it must go to a Ballot Box and at least one town meeting. This assignment would have several steps before it takes place. This includes a study, and then it must come to conclusion. A formal recommendation must be made to the Board of Selectmen. It then is required to be put on a ballot or a warrant article must be sent out.
8. Advertising why an MLP should be formed, and how it would benefit our community would help obtain a positive vote from citizens. Doug mentioned speaking with the Select Board to put a survey up on the town website to observe who in the community would be interested in a new internet provider. This could have potential for residents within our community to be willing to come to meetings, ask questions, and get involved with learning more about our options pertaining to internet in town. Jim did suggest sending out postcards to residents via mail, though the committee does not have a budget, therefore, the potential for this to happen is slim.
9. Members will review the reading material that Marlene studied to further suggest more opportunities Southwick residents could potentially see in the future.
10. **A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim and Alisha seconded. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned.**
11. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 6:30, but was cancelled due to inclement weather.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annalia Hanson - Secretary