

Open the Meeting: 9:40AM

Attendees: Juliet Jacobson, Brian Clark, David Kulp, Andy Smith, Tom Henry

Tom Henry was introduced.

Hardware

David shared his findings regarding a shared file server system for the office and recommends a Windows Server. Kulp will create a purchase proposal for a rack-mounted PC with Window Server 2012 Essentials, rack, and disk array to be presented at the next meeting.

Juliet is continuing to update the inventory spreadsheet

VOIP

David described a phone conversation with Paul Mervine, who installed and manages the existing phone system. Andrea Llamas will send documents from Buckland describing their phone configuration and needs. David will modify and submit to Cornerstone and Crocker for VOIP quotes.

Hilltown Networks Proposal

We reviewed the letter from Jody Hall. A motion was passed unanimously (Tom did not vote because he had not been sworn in) for David to summarize our discussion as representing the position of the committee at tomorrow night's information meeting.

Upcoming Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for April 17, 9:30am.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20am.

Statement

The following statement represents the Technology Committee Chair's summary of our discussion on the concerns raised by Jody Hall regarding the town hall steeple.

The technology committee received and reviewed the letter to the Select Board from Jody Hall dated February 23, 2014. We recognize that aesthetic, architectural and historical concerns are legitimate. However, these issues are not within the committee's purview. That said, we support the placement of mock-ups as the most straightforward means to assess concerns of visual impact and architectural integrity.

The technology committee agrees with Ms Hall that a regular review, no less frequent than three years, should be performed. Technology and business environments change. If the antenna are no longer needed or better variations on the steeple antenna attachments become possible, then they should be removed or replaced.

The committee notes that the proposed agreement is both financially sound for the town and serves the committee's mission of advocating for broadband access. The proposed agreement would save the town approximately \$1,200 per year in internet costs. In addition, Mr Gray would become the town hall internet service provider — a local individual with a well-known work history with town hall information technology systems. This is in contrast to significant difficulties that we have suffered under Verizon, the incumbent DSL provider.

Offering wireless internet service is a high risk and probably short term opportunity. A large group of interested citizens met in February 2012 and agreed that building our own municipal wireless would be too great of a challenge for the town. However, the need for connectivity is great and we support third party efforts to offer broadband service. Mr Gray is willing to assume the risk and he offers a competitive alternative to DSL and satellite internet access to some of our residents. Therefore we strongly recommend the agreement.

Finally, I want to clarify that the town is also a stakeholder in the municipally owned regional cooperative called "WiredWest" that aims to provide fiber optic internet connectivity to every resident. If that effort is successful in the next 3-5 years, then the town would be the beneficiary of world-class internet service, which may likely be more desirable than Mr Gray's wireless service. But the future of that project remains uncertain and in the meantime there continues to be a demand for broadband access.