



CUMMINGTON BROADBAND UPDATE

We are moving forward swiftly with our broadband network design. The pole survey is completed and we have worked with Whip City (WG&E's broadband division) to map out all Cummington residences and calculate strand counts for the various neighborhoods including possible future growth.

We have been meeting with neighboring towns regarding edge issues. This includes areas we cannot reach and will have to access through the neighboring town and how we will connect to our town hub. We are designing to run fiber to all residences with the exception of several for which we do not yet have solutions.

Westfield Gas and Electric, (WG&E), has divided the town into 3 fiberhoods for the purpose of design and building of the network. While the engineers do the design we will be applying for pole licenses to both Verizon and Eversource.

We have bi-weekly conference calls with the WG&E design team and monthly calls with Bill Ennen from Mass Broadband Initiative. Bill Adams, is our selectboard representative and meets with us regularly.

The Fiber Hut, which will be the center of our network, will be located in the office area of the Berkshire Trail School. This will take a significant amount of work to make ready but will save the town the approximate cost of \$50,000 to build a separate building.

We continue to collaborate with neighboring towns to work towards network stability, redundancy and cost effectiveness. As the design and build progress, we will decide on an ISP provider.

With so many towns building out now, both the utilities and WG&E will work as fast as they can to get the networks up and running, and we hope to have all of Cummington served by the summer of 2019.

Anticipated Timeline

We had anticipated the completion of the project in December 2018. The current completion date now looks like it will be the spring of 2019.

Next Steps

- Complete design and engineering process
- Continue communication and meetings with neighboring hilltowns



Cummington Municipal Light Plant Board

Cummington MLP board members: Allan Douglas (MLP Manager), Michael Perkins, Brenda Arbib, Scott Keith, Maureen Tumenas.

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