**Colrain Broadband Advisory Committee Update – February 2020
Colrain’s own fiber network … this is the year.**

**A summary of where we are in various steps of the process…**

 **Make Ready:** We receive frequent reports on the progress of make ready by Verizon and Eversource. Unfortunately, we have virtually no control over that progress. A few weeks ago, Verizon moved its date for having our make ready completed to mid-March. Eversource has completed its work. Shortly after the completion of make ready, our construction company will start placing fiber along all of the pole lines in town.

**Communications hut**: A small building (fiber hut) is required as part of our network to house centralized electronics. The hut has been ordered and will be located at 17 Main Road (the former site of Memorial Hall). If you have traveled through town you probably noticed the sign on the utility pole at the site. Site work for the required pads for the hut and generator is virtually complete and ready for delivery of the hut this spring.

**Managing the network:** The town has entered into a contract with Westfield Gas & Electric (WG&E) to be the Internet Service Provider/Network Operator to manage and maintain the system. The Town of Colrain will own the network, but we will have the experience and expertise of WG&E to make sure the system consistently meets all of the needs of its subscribers.

**Budget and costs**: The Advisory Committee is currently formulating a proposed operating budget and prices for services that will be offered, plus the costs of connecting each residence to the network, to be presented for review and approval.

**Future communications:** The Broadband Advisory Committee exists to assist the Town Coordinator in advising the Select Board on matters regarding the network build and operations. Watch for meeting dates and progress updates on the town website (https://Colrain-ma.gov).

Michael Shuipis - Chair