

Greenfield Community Energy and Technology (GCET) Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 9, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Farrell, Stromsten, Russell. Goodwin (Hybrid) Also in attendance. J. Lunt, W. St. Denis, F. Smith

Location: Hybrid (In-person and Virtual)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:00 PM**. The Chair announced the meeting was being recorded by **Greenfield Community Energy and Technology (GCET)** and asked that anyone else recording notify the Chair.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from **May 13** were presented.

- **Motion:** Approve May 13 minutes Commissioner Russell
 - **Second:** Commissioner Goodwin
 - **Vote:** Unanimously approved by roll call
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3. Public Comment

Stephanie (Chapman Street) asked about a proposed **AT&T cell tower expansion** currently before the Zoning Board of Appeals and whether it could impact GCET's broadband market share or expansion plans.

GCET staff noted they had not been contacted as a stakeholder. While the tower may provide cellular internet service, similar services are already offered by other providers. Staff stated that this competition has been considered in GCET's planning and is not expected to significantly affect the network's expansion, though the situation will continue to be monitored.

4. Old Business

North Greenfield Fiber Build

- The **96-count backbone fiber** has been pulled to the Local Convergence Point (LCP).

- Completion requires installing the **144-count fiber from the opposite direction**.
- GCET is awaiting **railroad approval** to complete an aerial crossing. The application and required insurance were submitted and approval may take several weeks.

Make-Ready Work

- All **carrier make-ready work on the backbone** (Verizon, Comcast, and Eversource) has been completed.

Current Construction

- GCET crews are installing strand on **Leyden Road**.
- Work on **Bernardston Road** has been completed.

Network Activation

Staff explained that once the backbone is complete, additional work will be required to configure the LCP electronics, splice fiber, and test backup systems before customer service can begin.

Grant Funding

GCET is currently working with several grants including:

- **Residential Retrofit Grant**
- **GAP Grant**
- **Digital Equity Grant**

These projects follow completion of the **North Greenfield build funded through ARPA**. Total grant activity is approximately **\$3 million**.

5. New Business

Splicer Truck Repairs

The GCET splicer truck is undergoing repairs with assistance from the Department of Public Works. Several mechanical issues have been addressed and additional repairs and testing are planned. If repairs are unsuccessful, GCET may consider purchasing a **splicing trailer or replacement vehicle**, though staff hope repairs will allow continued use of the existing truck.

Digital Equity Grant / Housing Authority Partnership

GCET is working with the **Greenfield Housing Authority** and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to expand internet service at several housing locations:

- Elm Terrace
- Oak Courts
- Morgan Allen House
- The Weldon

The grant would fund installation, equipment, and service for **two years**, providing residents with **100 Mbps symmetrical service**. GCET plans to install **fiber directly to units** rather than rely on managed Wi-Fi systems.

If implemented, the program could bring service to **more than 300 low- and moderate-income housing units** in Greenfield.

6. Outreach

GCET continues distributing **door hangers** to notify residents of available fiber services. Additional print runs are being prepared to reach more households.

7. Meeting Schedule

Due to summer schedules, the board agreed to hold a meeting on **July 29**.

8. Adjournment

- **Motion:** Adjourn Commissioner Russell
- **Second:** Commissioner Stromsten
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved by roll call

The meeting adjourned.