

Greenfield Community Energy and Technology (GCET) Board Meeting

Minutes Date: March 10, 2026 Time: 6:00 PM

Attendance: Commissioners Farrell, Stromsten, Goodwin, Marcum, Russell

Also in attendance. J. Lunt, W. St. Denis,

Location: Hybrid (GCET Offices and Virtual)

Call to Order & Minutes

Meeting called to order by the Chairman.

Minutes from February and March 2026 were moved by Commissioner Goodwin, seconded by Commissioner Stromsten, and unanimously approved with one amendment: acronyms such as “HP” and “rep gap” (representative gap) should be spelled out for public readability on the website.

No Public Comment

Operations Update

Digital Equity Grants (DHA) – GHA Partnership

- Installation complete at Elm Terrace (final splice remaining) and Oak Courts.
- Morgan Allen and the Winslow in progress; Winslow home-run routing confirmed.
- TV service is legally permissible (GCET fiber runs to the building). GCET will hold common-room meetings with GHA to offer residents internet switching while retaining TV.
- GCET remains the ISP for two years under the grant; strong long-term uptake anticipated. Signed agreement in place.

Access Limitations at Private Properties

- GCET requires an invitation to enter private property. Several sites decline annually — this is their legal right.
- Greenfield Gardens and Leyden Woods: neither owns its underground conduit, owned by GCET competitors, making access unlikely or prohibitively expensive.
- Countryside Condominiums owns its conduit (installed 1988); GCET management is in discussion with the HOA president.
- Smith Street: thick filled-concrete walls and owner restrictions on using hallways to route fiber make installation infeasible at this time. Last discussed early 2025; GCET will follow up.
- By law, GCET must own any infrastructure it installs — an additional barrier at some sites.

Weldon Residential Retrofit

- All vertical conduit runs and the armored cable bridges between telecom rooms are complete.
- Supply chain delay: drop cables ordered in early March are now 5–6 weeks late (likely early May delivery) due to global pressures — AI data center demand, geopolitical uncertainty, and vendor pricing/inventory freezes.
- MBI has been notified and is understanding. Grant price adjustments, if needed, have been pre-approved within reason.
- Overall project delay estimated at approximately one month.

- Action Item: Post a brief resident notice clarifying that the delay affects a single supply component only.

GAP Grant

- State has successfully pressured Eversource and Verizon to complete make-ready estimates. All estimates now done; make-ready committed by June.
- Weekly state oversight meetings (EOEDD + MBI) are ongoing.
- Grant will extend coverage to Wisdom Way south, northeastern Greenfield, and Lover's Lane. Outside contractors will be brought in so the in-house team stays focused on the North Build.

North Build

- Lashing and LCP configuration ongoing. Strategy revised to target the two highest-density areas first (~50% of homes in the build zone).
- All-fiber-to-premises build. Upon completion, GCET will exceed 90% citywide coverage — surpassing many longer-established MLPs.

Financial & Governance

Capital Request

- GCET's capital request was denied for the sixth year in a row. Last year's request received a unanimous positive advisory recommendation and still was not advanced.
- Without capital, infrastructure must be funded from operations, limiting retained earnings and slowing expansion. GCET nonetheless finished last year with \$40K+ in retained earnings and projects ~50% improvement this year.
- Some councilors at a recent meeting were unaware a capital request had been made — the committee wishes this to be clearly noted in the record.
- GCET is exploring alternative MLP organizational models in Massachusetts that would reduce dependence on city capital approval. Legal counsel will be engaged.

February 2026 Outage – Follow-Up

- ~14–15 customers left following the outage (<5%). GCET lost net customers in February, broke even in March, and has returned to net growth.
- Low attrition reflects strong customer service by GCET staff. Most customers who leave GCET do so due to moving out of Greenfield.
- Clarification: “End of life” (manufacturer stops producing) differs from “end of service” (manufacturer stops supporting). The failed routers were past end of life but within end of service — standard industry practice. Replacing at end of life would mean replacing equipment 9–10 years early.
- The committee formally disputes the characterization of the outage as “negligence.” GCET's response was transparent, accountable, and professional.

Executive Session

Motion made, seconded, and approved (all in favor) to enter executive session under Reasons 2 (negotiations/strategy with non-union personnel) and 10 (confidential trade/energy business information, G.L. c. 164 § 47). Board did not return to open session.