TOWN OF MARLBORO
CONNECTIVITY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, March 23, 2017
7 PM

ATTENDANCE:
Present were Select Board members Ty Gibbons and Pieter van Loon, and Marlboro residents
Steven John, Mike Andreotta, Brian Whitehouse, and Jacob Smith.

CALL TO ORDER:
The meeting came to order at 7:05 PM.

SCHEDULED BUSINESS
The group spoke about what goals to focus on; it was decided that the main emphasis of the
Committee shall be to investigate and prepare for the issue that DSL will soon not be adequate
for our connectivity needs, and that new technology will be needed in Marlboro to keep residents
and businesses well connected to the internet.

The committee discussed different technologies: fiber to the home, wireless and forthcoming 5G
technology, and cable. Ty Gibbons spoke about EC Fiber, a venture of 24 Vermont towns
working together to create their own fiber network (with the goal of achieving "wall-to-wall
fiber" in every town). Ty Gibbons also mentioned Vernon as an example of a town that pursued
"wall-to-wall" fiber but disbanded their committee due to lack of interest and resources.

Mike Andreotta and Steven John spoke about the merits of fiber and where fiber cables currently
run and/or service buildings, both in Marlboro and the surrounding region. The group discussed
the logistics and cost of accessing that fiber in the form of "drops."

Jacob Smith spoke about "mesh" technology, whereby residents possibly could "bounce" a high
speed connection from house to house, beginning at a single fiber connection point. The group
spoke about looking for opportunities for fiber connection at Marlboro College, MES, and a
private resident who has fiber to his home. Some in the group expressed that "mesh" technology
could be interesting because we, as townspeople, could be more in control of running the
technology, and also the system may be easier to beta test on a small scale.

Steven John brought up the idea that the PACE funding program could possibly include
connectivity upgrades to Marlboro residences, and thus townspeople could take out very low
interest loans to pay for equipment necessary to be a part of a "mesh" network or other
connectivity system.

The group agreed to pursue various ideas and research various technological hurdles, and
tentatively set a date to meet again on Tuesday, April 25th at 7 pm at the town office.

ADJOURN:
The meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ty Gibbons, Select Board