



## TOWN OF PETERSHAM

### **Petersham Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board**

Town Office Building

3 South Main Street / P.O. Box 486

Petersham, Massachusetts 01366

[www.townofpetersham.org](http://www.townofpetersham.org) / [www.connectingpetersham.com](http://www.connectingpetersham.com)

Tel: 978-724-3353 / Fax: 978-724-3501



## **Town of Petersham Completed Broadband Network Project Milestones**

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As with towns across Central & Western Massachusetts, in 2011 Petersham established its first Broadband Committee based on 2008 State legislation defining the Central & Western Mass. broadband project and its funding including installation of the original Broadband 123 line – the main spine of the hi-speed internet line thru all designated towns, including Petersham.

After many years of work by the Committee, as part of the process defined by the State and as approved by local voters, in 2016 Petersham transformed its Broadband Committee into a five member Petersham Broadband Municipal Light Plant Board (MLP). The MLP Board has been working on the project ever since – following is a concise timeline summary of the most recent efforts to establish town-wide high speed fiber internet in Petersham.

### **Concise Project Timeline 2016–2018:**

**November 2016** – Petersham issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Broadband network services. Only one proposal is received, from Matrix Design Group.

**November 2016** – The State, acting through the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), issues an RFP for possible cable company-provided Broadband services for all 45 of the “underserved and unserved communities” including Petersham – a designated “unserved community.”

**December 2016** – In one of the largest contemporary Petersham Town Meetings ever held, with approval from 299 voters, Petersham residents authorized \$560,000 for broadband make-ready work contingent upon two factors: Signing up a minimum of 270 customers and that no cable offer is received for Petersham by the State RFP deadline of February 2017.

**February 2017** – The MBI RFP for potential Cable Provided Broadband services receives offers for only six communities. Petersham does not receive an offer.

**February 2017** – A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is signed between the Town of Petersham and Matrix Design Group.

**March/June 2017** – 359 customers (70% of the homes in town) sign-up and submit \$250 pre-subscription payment (held in Town Treasurer's Escrow Account) for high-speed Internet service.

**July 2017** – Detailed Matrix Pole Data Survey is completed in record time.

**July 2017** – Town issues RFP for Network Equipment Hub room construction; awards the project in August; construction is completed in September.

**September 2017** – The Broadband Route Strand Map covering the entire town is completed by Matrix for Petersham.

**November 2017** – Final, formal agreement is signed between Town of Petersham and Matrix Design Group. (Agreement is vetted and approved by the law firms of Kopelman & Paige; Schenck, Price, Smith & King; and LeClair-Ryan.)

**November 2017** – Required utility company surety bonds are acquired and proof of insurance documentation is submitted to utilities.

**November 2017** – Matrix completes preliminary fiber network design.

**December 2017** – 26 Utility Pole Attachment Applications, comprised of an average of 100–200 individual poles per application, are completed and run through a rigorous quality control check

**January 2018** – All 26 Utility Pole Attachment Applications are submitted – 13 applications to Verizon and 13 applications National Grid.

**March 2018** – Utility company subcontractors complete their field review of all poles lines. Petersham awaits their response.

**June 2018** – Petersham Broadband MLP Board and Selectboard issue RFP for Network Equipment Hub electric service installation.

**June 2018** – Petersham Broadband MLP Board and Selectboard issue an RFP for new trenching and conduit to connect the east-to-west sections of town via Monson Turnpike (along a stretch of roadway with no current utility lines).

**August 2018** – Selectboard and Broadband MLP chairs conduct teleconference with officials from MBI and Massachusetts Technology Council (MTC) to review status of Petersham's designated funding. MBI/MTC confirms materials were reviewed at June MBI Board meeting and final votes are scheduled to be held on September 5 and 11, 2018 to authorize the guaranteed State broadband reimbursement grant funding to the Town in the amount of \$880,000 based upon completion of the project milestones listed above and future network milestone achievements.

**August 2018** – Four responses to the RFP for town-owned Monson Turnpike trenching and conduit project are received by deadline and taken under review.

**As of mid August 2018** – Petersham continues to wait for final responses from both utilities to its 26 Permit Applications to attach broadband fiber to poles. Make-ready work completed by the utilities is required and necessary before Matrix's construction of the fiber network can begin.

### **GOING FORWARD:**

**Matrix's schedule calls for completion of all customer broadband connections in the center of Petersham with three months of the utility companies completion of their make-ready work. (Installation by Matrix emanates out from the town center where the Network Equipment Hub is located.)**

**All portions of Town will be connected by Matrix within six months of the completion of utility companies make-ready work (winter weather permitting).**

**Matrix is ready and eager to begin their installation work as soon as the utilities complete their make-ready.**

**Petersham is ready and eager to receive written commitment of its long-assigned, designated State funding for the project from the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.**