Draft Technology Committee minutes for December 11, 2012.

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM by chairman Brian McCarthy. Present in addition to Brian were John Sauter, Jamie McFarland and Anthony Richardson. Also present were Chuck Miller, the liaison to the Town, and Jamie's son. Absent were Curtis Conrad and John Lastowka.

There were no minutes to approve. Brian said that the minutes from previous meetings in which he had acted as secretary would be available for approval at the next meeting.

The $5000 training item that we recommended is still in the budget, though there is no guarantee that it will remain there through the budget process. We had a brief presentation of the budget process from Brian.

Chuck is getting pressure from his users to purchase Microsoft Office 2010 because the Town is receiving documents in its format from external users, and it is a bother to have to convert the documents to another format to be able to read and modify them. Brian suggested that the Town's users should push back on those external users, who are spending money uselessly on Microsoft software, but it is unlikely that companies like Bank of America, for example, would be responsive.

The issue of the Town's networks being at risk from intruders over the Internet has been resolved. It will be removed from the issues list as soon as we have approved minutes showing that we are satisfied with the resolution of this issue.

We have some 6-year-old Cisco Ethernet switches that are no longer under warranty and which Cisco will no longer service. We will continue to run them until they break. We also have some HP Ethernet switches that we bought in 1999 that are still eligible for service and are still running well.

We discussed the possibility of broadening the committee's charter by including the needs of the school district. Brian will talk to the chair of the Town Council about this.

Jamie moved and Anthony seconded a motion to change our meeting schedule. Hence forth we would meet on the third Tuesday of February, May, August and November instead of the second Tuesday of each month. In addition, the chair could call a meeting at any time. The motion passed 4-0-0. This change to the operation of the committee requires approval by the Town Council—Brian will see about getting it on the consent agenda for the next Town Council meeting.

The Town has been planning to replace the DocStore system because its server is reaching capacity. Recently its scanner failed and was refurbished, so Chuck will be proposing to keep the refurbished scanner, thus decreasing the cost of the DocStore replacement.

When a voter moves to Merrimack from elsewhere in New Hampshire, he must register before he can vote. Often he registers at the polling station just before he votes. To make this process more efficient, the polling station needs Internet access: this allows the re-registration to be simply a matter of changing the voter's address in a database. Chuck feels that he can have Internet access for the polling place ready by the time of the next election. What Chuck will be doing will not create a vulnerability for the Town's network.

Jamie moved and Anthony seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion passed 3-1. Brian adjourned the meeting at about 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Sauter, secretary, technology committee