

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting  
May 11, 2021 at 11 am

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, Dave Gordon, Bill Fontes, Ned Wolf, and  
Jan Carr visiting  
MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11:02.

Members discussed the roles of Chair and Secretary. Bill made a motion to nominate Art as Chair. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ned said that he would be willing to serve as Secretary. Anne made a motion to nominate him as Secretary. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave made a motion that all positions be for 1 year. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila spoke of how a town's WiredWest representative is expected to attend the monthly Board meetings. At those meetings Wired West's policy is decided with each town having just one vote. Sheila is Heath's WiredWest representative. There's a drop box where Executive Director Jim Drawe or his daughter Jessica uploads WiredWest documents. Representatives are expected to have read the documents before attending a meeting.

Sheila said that our representative's primary responsibility is to represent Heath subscribers on the Board. If it doesn't work out for us, we should speak up and possibly go it alone. Wired West is only sharing profits. By having a pool of towns we can get better prices. Sheila suggested we decide who our alternate WiredWest delegate is after talking with Jim Drawe in our May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Art said that MLB meetings are open to the public and that the Open Meeting Law applies to our meetings. There could be executive sessions for such things as discussing fees. Hilma says that the purpose of the executive session should be stated.

Sheila is willing to host MLB meetings using her Zoom account. If for some reason she cannot be the host, she can transfer the running of the meeting to Anne or Ned, each of whom has a Zoom account.

Members agreed on 11 am on Tuesday's as a suitable MLB meeting time for the near future. Art will post next week's MLB meeting for 11 am on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Ned spoke of not finding 'MLB' among the choices in the drop down lists which occur when one tries to post meetings on the calendar of the Town's website. We need to ask Hilma to

1. Change on the Town website from 'Broadband mlp' to 'Heath Broadband', and
2. List the MLB members on the website.

Dave suggested our getting an email address for the MLB that forwards messages to the MLP Manager and one Board member. Art said that we need to discuss the Town webpage further.

Sheila would like the MLP Manager to be authorized to approve invoices and notify the MLB through a monthly report.

Sheila reported the following invoice:

Whip City Fiber	\$19,506.29	from MBI for direct connection to the Heath hub
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Sheila said that Bill Ennen has looked into it. He says that it's a one time cost and is not considered to be make ready. Anne made a motion that we pay it. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill suggested we could have a filter to determine whether or not we need to see an invoice.

Sheila asked when the Planning Board will need a letter from the MLB about the pole request. Jan said that there is a Planning Board hearing May 24<sup>th</sup>. Sheila said that in her conversation with Bill Ennen he had said that he thought it would be beneficial to have Bill Fontes and Paul Mark, who are both former Verizon employees, talk about the pole.

Sheila said that she plans to talk with Rich Carnall of WG&E about CAFII excluding people without electricity.

Art wondered how the language of the new WiredWest policy on connect/disconnect might affect residents of Mohawk Estates. In particular he asked whether instead of 'canceling' an account it should be 'suspend' an account. 'Canceling' suggests there would be a return of equipment.

Anne spoke of how it's important that residents of Mohawk Estates be treated the same way as everyone else, but we need to remember that Heath Broadband is for profit. Sheila said It is possible that on Monday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9 am there will be a continuation of the walkthrough at Mohawk Estates. Bill Fontes said he could attend.

Sheila suggested that Art post an MLPAC meeting for Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am with these 2 purposes:

1. Approve the May 4<sup>th</sup> minutes, and
2. Dissolve the MLPAC.

Sheila told the MLB of an email from Joe Parda asking whether or not the Town wants to go forward with an additional drop at 222 South Road. We will discuss this at the 2 o'clock meeting. If there are 2 electric services, they qualify for 2 drops.

Sheila returned to the DigSafe membership form she mentioned last week. Having all WiredWest towns sign as members will reduce costs. Bill made a motion that Sheila sign the DigSafe membership form. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a consensus that members are not quite ready to decide on May 11<sup>th</sup> about the 3<sup>rd</sup> Charlemont edge case. Bill will ask at the 2 o'clock meeting whether the 3<sup>rd</sup> house could be connected by a long drop that would reduce the cost.

Members agreed that whether municipal buildings have Ooma phone or Crocker is a decision for the Select Board to make.

Anne made a motion to adjourn at at 12:58. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf