

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting with WG&E and TriWire
May 11, 2021 at 2 pm

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, Bill Fontes, Dave Gordon, and Ned Wolf
MLP Manager, Sheila
WG&E: Joe Parda, Tom Kolek, Dave Loiko, and Caitrin Ferriter
TriWire: Jordan Hawes, Dave Libbey, and Dave Poplawski

Jordan reported that they have been pulling cable down Flagg Hill Road and will have that lashed up. They'll be putting MST's there tomorrow. He said that they are on target in FSA 3.

Dave Poplawski said that they have not finished in FSA 1. Two men have been hurt. Dave Libbey said that 2 tests are missing but that the tests completed have all been uploaded to the FTP site. He said they'll have those 2 missing test results tomorrow. They expect TriWire's testing in FSA 1 to be complete by May 17. Joe confirmed that 2 weeks from tomorrow they're expecting the release of FSA 1.

Caitrin informed Sheila that there were no scheduled FSA 2 undergrounds.

At 2:35 TriWire left the meeting.

Sheila asked Caitrin whether the availability in Westfield of 5G service has affected broadband subscription rates. She asked this in the context of Heath's Planning Board having a request for a permit for a 180' monopole as part of the FirstNet program. AT&T has told us that 5G service is likely on that pole. Caitrin said that her data on people in Westfield who have disconnected from Whip City Fiber does not indicate whether they are going to 5G.

Sheila asked Joe about the time by which Heath needs to have renegotiated an IGA with Charlemont concerning the 3rd edge case. Joe recommended it be done by August 1 which is a deadline for splicing in Heath.

Caitrin said that Laura will be at the marketing session on May 13th. Tomorrow May 12th Whip City Fiber and WiredWest will send a joint email inviting applications to the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. The message will list criteria such that if a member of the household satisfies just one in the list, the household will be eligible for the benefit of \$50. /mo. Members welcomed this message which could incentivize some who haven't signed up. Anne asked Sheila whether she needs help putting something up on our webpage. Cheryl Handsaker in Charlemont was putting together a press release.

Jaime and Chris will go to Mohawk Estates to look at each electric meter. Joe Parda said he had heard rumors that WG&E is going with a new design. Joe said we're sticking with the same design.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf