

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB

June 29, 2021 at 11 am

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

Art Schwenger called the meeting to order at 11:02 pm.

Members read the minutes of the June 22nd MLB meeting at 11. Anne moved to accept the minutes with emendations. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the 2 o'clock WG&E Construction meeting on June 22nd. Bill moved to accept the minutes. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila reported that the third Charlemont edge case has an address: #14 Heath Center Road. David and the other MLB members recommended we go ahead drafting language for the amendment to Heath's IGA with Charlemont. Even if the customer declines, there could be a subsequent customer willing to pay for the drop minus whatever Charlemont offers as a subsidy. That amount is currently \$500 but only for the duration of the construction.

Sheila will send David contact information for the 3rd edge case.

The word from Patty Norton of United Concrete is that the hut roof will be fixed on July 2.

There was a consensus to stick with July 1 as the day when the access code to the hub is changed. Sheila said she has received a list from Jordan of TriWire employees who will need to know the new code. Tom Kolek, who is due to visit Sheila tomorrow, can bring the WG&E list. There was a consensus to tell the people to whom we give the code that they are not to share it, and inform us if they do.

Tom Kolek will also be bringing a broadband banner that Sheila will give to Jenny for hanging on the Mohawk Estates recreation building. Tom has begun a walkthrough of the entire town to observe what TriWire has done in preparation for the conclusion of construction.

Bill recommended a card swipe as a way to improve the security of the hub. Joe Parda has spoken of a card swipe as part of the security package that WG&E will eventually propose.

David reported that the temperatures recorded as a result of placing a temperature sensor inside the hub have been good. They have cycled between 68 and 70 degrees.

The committee discussed when Heath's municipal network will be live. The question of when that happens was recently asked by MBI. MBI is willing to extend hotspot service to 18 Jacobs Road to December 31. Once we learn when the town's municipal network will be online, Sheila will send the Select Board a notice.

Bill has been looking with Hilma into the possibility of converting all town phone lines from Verizon to Ooma. He is trying to get a complete list of phone numbers the town has with Verizon. At this time we do not know the degree to which Northeast IT would be involved in a switch from Verizon to Ooma.

We will inform Bill Ennen that MLB members have talked with Representative Paul Mark about the proposal to build a 180' monopole in Heath.

Sheila reported that Wired West has entertained a proposal for an auditor. Wired West will reach out with a separate proposal to audit MLB records. That proposal will include verification that we've received our correct percentage of any surplus revenue. The auditing of MLB records occurs at a different time from when the rest of the town is audited.

Sheila said that we need to find out if there was a cost for TriWire to rehang the fiber affected by the recent breaking of a utility pole in an MVA on route 8A in Heath near the bridge over Burrington Brook. We don't know who actually rehung the fiber or whether there was an invoice.

Art requested that Sheila send MLB members a description of the invoice process.

Art has yet to talk with Tom Lively about the possibility of a joint FinCom/MLB meeting. Art has communicated to Hilma that Sheila's salary is a town expense. Sheila added that the 10 hr/wk is just a guess. It's been 17-18 hours a week during construction and will be less during operation.

Members spoke of the importance of learning the number of cold drops in Mohawk Estates in order to help in deciding whether or not the town can afford cold drops.

Invoice:

6/25/21	\$2,627.04	WG&E, HE-ENG-10001
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Sheila informed members of the above invoice. Bill moved to approve the invoice. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed the possibility of the fairgrounds having broadband installed by August 21 for the Fair. We were told last week by WG&E that installation isn't expected there until September. There was a consensus to put in a special request for installation by August 20 along with a question as to whether there would be additional cost. We will ask Jess and Sean how they plan to use broadband at the Fair. A broadband site on the fairgrounds that got overused could give a negative impression of broadband.

Sheila reported that Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) in Heath has 3 customers while there is 1 customer enrolled in Life Line. There will be a charge for Heath. We pay part of the \$50 /mo discount.

Sheila said that there is a new request for a drop. It is at 12 West Branch Road where the estimated drop cost is \$3,498.67. The subscription would be for 25 mps full time. David moved to approve that the construction can proceed. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Sheila will talk with the customer so as to have assurance they will pay the overage.

Members discussed meeting times in July and August. Bill moved that the dates of the July meetings be July 6 and July 20 while the dates of the August meetings be August 3, 17, and 31. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Anne is receiving suggestions for improving the town's websites for broadband and for the MLB. She has so far received suggestions from David and from Ned.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:49. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

