

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB  
July 13, 2021 at 11 am

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

Absent: Anne Emmet

Art called the meeting to order at 11:00. Members read the minutes of the MLB meeting at 11 on June 29. David moved and Bill seconded that the minutes be approved with emendations. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the conference call with Bill Ennen at 1 on June 29. David moved and Bill seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the WG&E construction meeting at 2 on July 6. David moved and Bill seconded that the minutes be approved with emendations. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the MLB meeting at 9 am on July 8. David moved and Bill seconded that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan reported that 1 more person has signed up since last week making a total of 393.

David has left the marketing banner from WG&E at Mohawk Estates.

David spoke of the draft of the amendment to the IGA with Charlemont regarding edge cases on Center Heath Road in Charlemont, the continuation of Bassett Road in Heath. Committee members have appreciated his sending it to them. David said he would adjust the opening paragraph to the fact that since the date of the IRA an MLB has been elected. Sheila suggested that it could help when it comes time to sign it to have Art, an MLB member, be one of the signers. David said that he would contact Jim Drawe and raise the possibility that town counsel with Robyn's consent appraise the amendment.

David asked what kind of a commitment to pay do we need between Heath and a customer for cases where the estimated drop cost exceeds \$3000.? He said he would do some digging on getting a letter to run by Town Counsel, Robyn, and Jim Drawe on commitment to pay.

Sheila said that she has forwarded to Bill and to David the process for changing the code for entry to the hut. She said we'll probably ask David Dvore for help.

Tom Kolek has been doing an audit of TriWire's work. Sheila said that Jordan has received a long list from Tom of what TriWire's got to go back and do.

Sheila relayed a request from Hilma for the names of our Wired West delegate and alternate. The MLB confirmed that our Wired West delegate is Sheila, and our alternate is Art.

Sheila said that on Thursday, July 15, 11:30 – 1:30, Tom Flaherty, General Manager of WG&E, will be hosting a meeting to clarify the ‘backup’ for western Massachusetts towns such as Heath in the event of an interruption of broadband service. Members expressed interest in whether MBI would accept financial responsibility for the interruption of service in other towns that occurred this spring.

David suggested we put together a list for the BOS of what should be covered by the American Rescue Plan. Any cost arising in the new fiscal year should be considered. The OPM cost, which is yet to be paid, is eligible. Sheila said we can get details from the Accountant on items already paid for.

Bill Fontes said that in helping Hilma to find all the town’s phone numbers he has found that the town uses Crocker for some of its phone lines. He will reach out to Northeast IT’s Sean Weaver who may have a list. David expressed the committee’s interest in knowing when WG&E will be able to hand Northeast IT their patch cord so that they can configure each town building as needed. He said that extending a hotspot through MBI without cost to the town should be compatible with having a town building live on the municipal network. Sheila said residents would be benefit most from having 3 hotspots: 18 Jacobs Road, Sawyer Hall, and the Community Hall. David said that due to security issues it’s important that a hotspot not run off a munie network. Any munie network must be isolated from the public.

David moved and Ned seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 12:32. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf