

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
July 27, 2021 at 11 am

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

Members said that they had read the First Amendment Intergovernmental Agreement Fiber Optic Network Services between Heath and Charlemont and approved of the wording. Anne moved that the MLB approves the First Amendment Intergovernmental Agreement Fiber Optic Network Services between Heath and Charlemont as written and sent by David Gordon in an email on July 26 at 5:09 pm. Ned seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.

Anne moved that the First Amendment Intergovernmental Agreement Fiber Optic Services between Heath and Charlemont as sent by David Gordon in an email on July 26 at 5:09 pm be sent to the Select Board and that the Select Board sign it. Ned seconded the motion which passed by unanimous vote.

Ned emailed each of the 2 motions and the results of the corresponding votes to Hilma.

Members read the minutes of the July 20th MLB meeting at 11. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with a correction. Ned seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the WG&E Construction Meeting on July 20th at 2. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. Ned seconded the motion which was approved by unanimous vote.

Jan said that there has been one additional signup. She said that Chris LaVertu sent to Sheila the WG&E report resulting from a walkthrough of Mohawk Estates. When Sheila sent Jan the report's spreadsheet, the spreadsheet arrived but with none of the entries in the column for costs. Jan will seek a copy from Chris directly.

Sheila called members attention to Heath Broadband Funds status July 6, 2021 in her email of July 26. She explained to members the details of 2 tabs in her report: the Town Borrowing #39 -5-192- 002 tab, and the 070621 Summary Overview tab. Sheila said she would like to consult with Ned in the coming week.

Invoice

Sheila reported the following docusign:

7/14 HE-SERV-10001 Service drop installations \$61,067.17

Anne moved to approve the above invoice. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members discussed the proposal to lower the drop subsidy from \$3000. to \$200. and eventually to \$0.0. Jordan of TriWire has spoken of nearing the end of the network phase of the construction.

Anne moved to reduce the drop subsidy to \$0.0 as of August 31. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

We will discuss sending postcards or otherwise notifying potential broadband customers before the Fair.

Anne will continue working with David on a Heath letter such as the Charlemont letter for ensuring payment that David sent to us by email on July 25. Members approved of that letter which Charlemont sends to people prior to drop installation to ensure payment.

The committee reviewed Whip City Fiber customer relation issues. Anne will continue to monitor the Tim and Eileen Lively situation. We are aware of Robyn's continuing difficulties with Whip City communications that have involved an underground installation. Sheila spoke of how three quarters of the people on our list for cold drops have been on 'MLP hold'. It appears that the hold has been removed from many of those customers.

Sheila said that due to a number of factors she intends to resign as MLP Manager at the end of this August. Among the factors are the quantity of work expected, the lack of support from other town officials in particular the Finance Committee, and a different understanding from Art's about the MLP Manager's level of authority. There is more to be discussed about these matters.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:38. Ned seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

