

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB  
August 10, 2021 at 11 am

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

Absent: Art Schwenger and Bill Fontes

David chaired the meeting for Art who is away this week.

He called the meeting to order at 11:07.

Members read the minutes of the 10 am WG&E meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup> with Chris LaVertu's report on potential sites for drop installations in Mohawk Estates. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the 11 am MLB meeting on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of Bill Ennen's 1 pm conference call with the MLB on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of WG&E's construction meeting with the MLB at 2 pm on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David called our attention to Art's draft entitled 'possible statement to update the Heath Drop Service Installation Policy' emailed to us on August 8<sup>th</sup>. In the second paragraph Art suggests a \$250. subsidy for a cold drop which the committee understood to be an incentive to convert to a live drop.

Anne asked whether any work has been done on cold drops. Sheila said there has been none that she knows of. She added that the network constructed includes the MST's that would be needed for any cold drop.

Sheila quoted from the current Drop Policy that near the end of network construction "The Heath MLP Manager and Municipal Light Board will determine at that time if Cold Drops will be eligible for any or a portion of the drop construction credit." That paragraph also includes "All costs of converting a cold drop to active service after completion of startup network construction are the customers' responsibility, including the cost to mobilize vehicles."

David questioned the need for the third paragraph of Art's draft. There was a consensus that the third paragraph is not needed.

The question was asked "How critical are the cold drops to the town's reaching 70% of potential drops being installed?" Jan said that according to the CRM we now have 384 signups of whom 20 are cold drops. There are 364 signed up for live drops. The report from Chris LaVertu says there are at most 205 potential live drops in Mohawk Estates. The sum of 364 and 205 is 569 of which 70% is 398.

David asked how soon we can notify the 20 cold drops? Sheila said we should call them directly. We could require signups this year knowing that these people would likely cancel. David said that if people do not sign up this fall, it likely won't be until the spring that they sign up.

Jan said that postcards to cold drops as well as to those who have not yet signed up would have to be done this week. David suggested changing the date of September 1 in Art's draft to September 15. It was suggested that the proposed \$250 subsidy be changed to \$500 to keep alive the possibility that certain cold drops will eventually become live drops. Each cold drop is estimated to cost at least \$657.91.

To answer the question of whether we have to reach 70% in order to receive any aid for drops from the state Sheila sent Bill Ennen an email to which he replied that we can earn up to a maximum of  $0.7 \times \text{Number of eligible drops} \times \$500$ . We do not have to reach 70%.

Anne moved the following: Due to the nearing conclusion of the start of construction we set September 15<sup>th</sup> as the date for all subsidy applications. Before September 15<sup>th</sup> the subsidy for a cold drop is \$500, and the subsidy for a live drop is up to \$3000. After September 15<sup>th</sup> anyone not on the list for taking service will not be eligible for a subsidy for either a cold drop or a live drop. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David will brief Art and Bill.

### Financial Report

Sheila explained the tabs of her report. The \$866.43 remaining in the state grant account can cover 1 or 2 police details. The amount on line 4 of the summary overview tab is the Accountant's balance of \$294,836.63 in the town borrowing account. It precedes the most recent TriWire invoice of \$52,107.85.

On Line 10 of the summary overview tab we replaced 70% of 363 x \$500 with 70% of 569 x \$500 to reflect our estimate of 569 as the maximum possible number of drops.

Anne noted the -\$664.11 ENG in the 'amount remaining' column and the -\$32,307.15 CNST in the same column and asked whether we might be getting something back? Sheila said that Chris LaVertu has referred to those as cost overruns. He says the amount remaining may change. These costs relate to additional materials.

### Notifying

Each postcard will include the estimated cost of the particular drop. Sheila will give us the revised cold drop list. Jan has filled in the costs.

David asked that if members have any comments about the draft of the wording on the postcard, they send those comments to Sheila and Jan who will wait until our August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting on sending the postcards. There may be as many as 150 postcards. Sheila and Jan may need more help. Jenny may be one source of help.

Regarding the updating of the website, we know that Hilma is due back next week from vacation. She will help set up a website administrator. She will also help us with billing. Anne and David will finalize the wording of a payment commitment.

Sheila said that people from WG&E will be in the parade at Heath Fair on Sunday 10 – 2. We will try to determine other times when they might be available at the Fair.

David said that on August 16<sup>th</sup> the Charlemont Select Board votes on the amendment to the Heath and Charlemont IGA for edge cases in Charlemont south of Bassett Road in Heath. David has to wait for that vote before he can contact the customer.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:47. Ned seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf