

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
August 31, 2021 at 11 am

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Sheila had no invoices, and no check has come in from the third Charlemont edge case.
She has asked the Accountant how he wants to record the overage checks? Will there be a separate account?

She has asked Jim Drawe for an update on the date when Heath can expect the first CAFII payment.

Art reviewed his proposed schedule of MLB meetings and meetings involving the MLB in September.

Sept. 7	MLB @ 11	WG&E Construction @2
" 14	" " " Conference Call @1	" " " "
	with Bill Ennen	
" 21	" " "	" " " "
" 28	" " "	" " " "

The times are as the committee expected. Ned will post the agendas on the website.

Members thought about issues to bring up at the 2 o'clock meeting. Sheila communicated with Chris about our getting a schedule of underground work. There is still nothing from Chris. Another important matter is the construction schedule for FSA 3 and FSA 4. We need more clarity on that. Joe Parda has said that the project is 30 days behind and 1 to 2 weeks in addition. Art said that a TriWire person in the field said he thinks they're ahead.

Bill suggested an 'out': get the 30 permanent residents in FSA 4 done and wait until the end of mud season for the others.

Customer Complaints:

Anne is the keeper of customer complaints. She said that she would phone Tim and Eileen that day. Sheila asked that she be Cc'd in what gets sent to Brian or Caitrin.

Sheila recommended that in the case of a call about billing one consult the CRM for the billing history.

David said that according to the CRM installations in FSA 1 and FSA 2 there were just 5 done in all of August while the CRM also indicates that there are 20 to 25 in FSA's 1 and 2 still to be installed.

There was a consensus that we need to schedule a weekly meeting with Caitrin and Brian to focus on problems related to customer complaints.

In reporting on the September 2 meeting of WG&E on redundancy David said that more information is needed. He has said in an email to Tom Flaherty, General Manager of WG&E, that we need the information to sell WG&E's plan to the town. David Dvore would like Crown Castle but not MBI to be part of the redundancy plan. We need a temporary fix for which the cost is \$600 a month for each town. Heath would be grouped with Rowe, Charlemont, Colrain, and Leyden. Bob Handsaker is pulling together a meeting of the 5 towns with one of the questions being whether they can bring down the cost.

Broadband Finance Summaries for Select Board:

David went over the 'Heath Broadband Financing through 7/31/2021' spreadsheet that he sent to the Select Board, the Finance Committee, and to the MLB in preparation for the joint Select Board/MLB meeting at 5 on August 31. It shows a projected surplus of \$115,832.70. The number of drops is taken to be 383, the present number of applicants. The estimate for the total cost of the drop installations is \$450,000 which is \$245,000 less than WG&E's original estimate of \$695,000 but is more than the \$398,657 estimate obtained from the CRM. Art said he wanted it known that this spreadsheet does not include any account for depreciation.

The second spreadsheet that David went over was 'Heath Broadband Capital Construction Costs into Operation Cash Flow Projections FY21 through FY23' which shows a balance of \$96,007.40 on 7/30/2022. This sheet assumes that the first CAFII payment arrives on 7/30/2022. David thinks we may not receive that until 2023.

Dave Loiko stopped by Sheila's on his way to 612 8A North. He intends to check the viability by WiFi by seeing whether the house has a line of sight to the MST on 8A. Estimates for a fiber installation to the house were \$28K - \$32K.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf