

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
September 21, 2021 at 11

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

Sheila said that Dave Loiko and Jaimie Cincotta came yesterday to visit Craig and Julie Sidon. They plan to provide Craig and Julie with information about options for their receiving broadband.

Sheila said that at 9 am yesterday there was a meeting of the North geo-cluster which David and Bill also attended. There was discussion of the backhaul capacity in the event of a fiber break. The 5 towns of Rowe, Charlemont, Heath, Colrain, and Leyden are eager to go forward. There are drafts of an IGA. Westfield has asked when the towns could meet again. It won't be until early October.

David said that Phase 1, which is the long term solution for redundancy, will take longer than first expected. The ordering of various parts such as switches will take time. A cable needs to be installed from Rowe to Charlemont. That is not expected to happen until the first quarter of 2022.

Members discussed 2 cases, one at 2 Mohawk Beach Drive and one at 43 Swamp Road. The person at 2 Mohawk Beach Drive wants to sign up for an active drop. The person at 43 Swamp Road wants to convert from a cold drop to active service.

Anne moved to allow the person at 2 Mohawk Beach to sign up for an active drop with subsidy provided that person signs up by September 24 and to allow the person at 43 Swamp Road to convert from a cold drop to an active drop with subsidy. Bill seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously with members agreeing on the reasoning. The person at 2 Mohawk Beach Drive was sent a postcard announcing the September 15 deadline but did not receive it. The postcard came back. The person at 43 Swamp Road tried to contact WG&E twice on September 15th but did not succeed.

Sheila notified us of a National Grid invoice for \$259.16. It will go to Wired West.

Sheila said that in the CRM there is a tab called *submissions* where there are 5 or 6 names of people who sent an email but couldn't subscribe for one reason or another. Just one person

has moved to Heath and has an address. Jan said that certain customers have installations working but no amount appears in the CRM under 'Drop Costs'.

Sheila said that the hut monitoring proposals involve security, the alarm system, and annual testing. She hasn't yet received anything from Kinsley about the generator.

Members discussed the possibility of Kinsley's being the company that services all generators in Heath but itemizes so as to identify the cost for the hub generator. Sheila will explore this with the Select Board. This will be new in that it would involve the MLP signing our own contract. Sheila said that when we get these contracts, we will want to inform the Select Board.

Bill updated us on the key to the box in the hub for the electrical panels. He has ordered a spare key for us and for Rowe.

The MLB reviewed David's September 20th draft of a letter to the Select Board recommending consideration of using some of Heath's ARPA funds for broadband construction costs. In the first paragraph on page 2 'March 2020' has been corrected to 'March 2021'. There is a highlighted sentence that reports our being informed by Bill Ennen, the Massachusetts Executive of Housing and Economic Development, of other western Massachusetts towns deciding to apply ARPA funds to their broadband projects. The draft includes 'Attachment 1 – FAQ related to Broadband Eligibility for ARPA Funds'. Anne moved that the September 20th draft be sent with the highlighted sentence and the attachment to the Select Board. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Art asked that David send the final copy to him and also to the Town Coordinator.

Members discussed the broadband information as it appears on the town website. Anne said she would tighten up some of the language for the drop subsidy.

Members considered the question 'With whom do we have a contract?' There was a consensus that we have a contract with TriWire only for the construction of the network. The SERV invoices for the installation of drops come from our contract with WG&E. WG&E subcontracts TriWire to install the drops.

Bill moved to adjourn at 12:41. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Ned Wolf

