Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
November 23, 2021 at 11

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:14.
Members read the minutes of the November 16th MLB meeting. David offered a number of edits. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the November 16th WG&E installations meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the November 16th WG&E construction meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There was a consensus that it would be a help if WG&E were to phone a customer before that person is disconnected from the internet for lack of payment. Even if WG&E were to call, the MLB agreed that having the MLB Chair phone as well would be good. A question that the MLB had for an afternoon meeting with WG&E was “Is there a charge to get reconnected?”

Another question the MLB listed was “Are there just 2 undergrounds left?” David noted there’s a difference between “having underground work done” and “being connected.”

David said that in the CRM ‘new’ does not mean that the person is ‘scheduled’. ‘New’ could mean that the person is ‘just signed up’, or that ‘they have been unable to contact the person.’ It’s not always clear what ‘new’ means.

The MLB knows that it’s Chris’ responsibility to get the PDU number for Bill Ennen. Jan said that she has been assisting him in that work. Two more MLB questions involve Chris: “Has Chris talked with Bill?” and “What is the status of Heath’s asset sheet?”

Betsy Loiko’s chart shows that the installations on Center Heath Road are scheduled for the last week of November.

Ned added “What is the release date for FSA 4?” to the MLB’s list of questions
David reported on the efforts to make redundancy more resilient and reliable. He said that a design is expected in 3 weeks. The towns requested updates from WG&E while they are
working on the design. He said he planned to attend a meeting that evening of the Northern Geo-Cluster at which a discussion of approaches to cost sharing will begin.

Bill asked if Leyden’s connection to MBI via Greenfield had been discussed relative to other towns possibly sharing the cost. It is being discussed that Leyden’s primary connection to Greenfield could serve as the other towns’ secondary connection.

A challenge in planning is that the towns’ contracts with MBI expire at different times.

Art said that the meetings for November 30th have been posted. The MLB agreed on the following schedule for December:

Dec. 7  11:00  MLB
       1:00  Call with Bill Ennen
       1:30  WG&E installations with MLB
       2:00  WG&E construction with MLB

Dec. 14 11:00  MLB
       1:30  WG&E installations with MLB
       2:00  WG&E construction with MLB

Dec. 21 11:00  MLB

It was decided not to meet on Dec. 28.

Art reported on the Nov. 17th meeting of WiredWest. He said that WiredWest revenue at this time is 34% more than had been estimated. The total of 1833 customers in October is lower than expected, but more will be coming in Becket. The Leyden Select Board was to vote on whether to join WiredWest.

The MLB may vote at its Nov. 30th meeting on a recommendation as to where the checks to the Town for partial and full installations will go. We need to discuss sending out letters to customers if the subsidy doesn’t cover cost.

David said that according to the CRM 23 people have signed up for cold drops.

Anne moved to adjourn at 12:15. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf