

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
January 11, 2022 at 11
virtual meeting

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.

Members read the minutes of the January 4th MLB meeting. David moved that the minutes be approved with emendations. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members read the minutes of the January 4th WG&E Installs meeting. Anne made a motion that the minutes be approved. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members read the minutes of the January 4th WG&E Construction meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Bill asked David whether the temperature fluctuations in the hut continue. David said that they do.

Sheila said that yesterday Kinsley did a semiannual test of the generator, and she hasn't heard the results. She said that WG&E was contacted about the coming visit but not Heath. David said we should make sure that the Albany office of Kinsley knows that the Hartford office has arranged for this maintenance so as to avoid an unnecessary maintenance visit.

Sheila said that she mailed this morning the first check and the application to Cabot Risk Strategies. The first check, which is for approximately \$6K, is for cabling. The second check is for the electronic components in the hut and for the structure of the hut. The Accountant and Treasurer are expected to be working on Sunday, January 16th.

Hilma and Sheila are working on telling National Grid where to send their invoice.

Sheila said that Bill Ennen is wanting a breakdown of the total amount that will be spent for drops in Heath. The amount that will come from the state will be \$216,466. He is waiting for us to tell him how much will come from Heath homeowners and how much from the Town. Bill is working on the assumption that all the drops have been built. We have to verify with Chris that we've got the most recent information.

Hilma said she would reach out to Robyn for the letter to EOHED that the Select Board members signed.

Members turned to the municipal buildings with Anne recalling that they were included in the design. David said that there are 2 ONTs. We are paying for 2 drops through our contract with Wired West and Westfield Gas and Electric. There are one or two static IPs. There will be a monthly service charge that is possibly more than for a residence. Sheila said that once we receive information on the monthly service charge we should inform Hilma.

There was a consensus to level fund the MLB stipends for FY23. Members recommended \$500. for an MLB Expense line to cover the cost of a professional Zoom account (\$149.), postage, mailings, and travel.

David asked Sheila whether she thought an adjustment is needed for the MLP Manager's salary in FY23. She favored level funding.

Sheila recommended that the MLB and the MLP Manager think about records management. Is there a place in Heath not in a private home where the records of the MLP Manager and the MLB can be safely stored?

We will check with Chris about the POD which is still in the parking lot at 18 Jacobs Road.

The committee looked at Sheila's draft of the broadband finance summary report which is attached to her email of January 10. There was a consensus to remove \$46,960, the estimated network revenue coming from subscribers connected by 6.30.22 because the summary sheet at this time should reflect only construction.

Ned asked about the \$114,861 remaining in the drop construction subsidy account. David said that he and Sheila will look at that again in light of recent drop invoices that aren't included. There was a consensus to add the cost of a security system for the hut (\$13,378.33) and the cost of redundancy (about \$40K).

David reported on meetings related to redundancy. On January 4th the Northern Ring Towns (Rowe, Charlemont, Colrain, Leyden, Heath) met. In preparing for a January 7th meeting with WG&E they agreed to reiterate that the existing WG&E proposal does not meet their requirements and to push for a revised Design having those requirements. The Design should include timelines, costs, and interim steps. On January 7 the Northern Ring met with John Leary, Chris LaVertu, and two representatives of Nokia whose network equipment is favored by WG&E. There was a good discussion with helpful input from Nokia. There could be a proposal

in 2 weeks, but David thinks that March is a more likely time. Later in the day on January 11th a meeting was scheduled to hash out a backhaul sharing agreement with Crown Castle. Bill reported that Jim Drawe has responded to his inquiry about emergency protocols. Bill and Anne will discuss an emergency protocol for Heath.

Anne has talked with Tim and informed him that Whip City will contact him about the cutover scheduled for the week of January 24th.

Anne moved to adjourn at 12:40. David seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf