

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting  
June 28, 2022 at 11  
Virtual meeting

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger (Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, and Ned Wolf  
MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield  
Absent: Bill Fontes

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Members read the minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup> MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the June 21<sup>st</sup> WG&E installs meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sheila said that the Select Board expected that MLB expenses would be covered by stipends. We don't have a line in the budget for Zoom. Zoom is not an expense to be reimbursed for. Sheila said that she plans to have her Zoom available. Anne said that her Zoom is also available.

Art said he talked with Hilma who says that any meeting after July 15 has to follow pre-Covid rules. There must be a chair and a quorum present. The MLB meetings on July 19 and July 26 have to be in person. Hilma said that Sawyer Hall is not a place to meet because of ADA rules. The upstairs of the Community Hall is a possibility for July 19<sup>th</sup>; the downstairs is a possibility for July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Sheila said that the FRCOG health agent has informed the Heath Board of Health that there is no mold issue at the Community Hall.

David asked whether a hybrid meeting with a quorum present and others using Zoom is possible? Members expressed interest in whether a guest could phone in provided that all could hear.

David and other MLB members favor having Sheila as our representative at the 1:30 meeting while we can phone in.

Sheila has reviewed the Drop Policy with the approach of June 30<sup>th</sup> and favors sticking with it as written.

She said that a number of installations have been flagged due to construction issues. Jenny Hamilton reports that there are people at Mohawk Estates who have tried to get installations only to be told that they've been put on hold due to construction issues. This has resulted in some cases in nasty Facebook postings.

David sent Sheila and MLB members on June 27<sup>th</sup> 2 worksheets: Application Status and Installation Summary. They indicate that 36 installations are pending while 11 are flagged as 'on hold due to construction issues'. There was agreement to ask at the 1:30 meeting about those that are 'on hold'.

Sheila said that all the customers recently informed of termination have paid their invoices, and no customers have been lost.

Sheila has had several conversations with the Accountant who has the information needed to reconcile the broadband accounts by July 15<sup>th</sup>. She will await reconciliation before sending another financial report.

David has left Hilma with clean copies of documents for the Redundancy, Resiliency, and Reliability Project to be signed by the Select Board. He will pick them up when they've been signed and bring them to Sheila for her signature. Then he will get them to David Dvornik in Rowe.

Members discussed the difference between a 'network extension' and a 'network expansion'. A network extension is an extension of the Distribution Network where the MST continues from the road on to private property. This is required where poles on private property are more than 170 feet apart. It involves spanning the poles with a stranded steel support cable and lashing the MST to this support.

A network expansion is any expansion of the Distribution Network which becomes necessary after the completion of the initial network construction in order to provide an MST for future home construction. The construction of a home beyond the end of Flagg Hill Road will require a network expansion.

Anne asked about there being possible mentions of a network extension on the Town's website. David questioned why there needs to be any mention of a network extension on the website. Anne said that she will look again on the website for an appearance of 'network extension', and if there is one, she will send it to David.

Sheila said that the 'Herald' article is needed by July 5<sup>th</sup>. David will get something to her about the Community Compact Cabinet Grant. Sheila will also mention in the article something from the Drop Policy about construction.

Sheila has the draft of a 'thank you' letter to Colrain officials for their help in securing the Community Compact Cabinet Grant. Art and Sheila will sign it on behalf of the Town of Heath and send it on to the Select Board.

Anne moved that the MLB adjourn at 12:25. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf