

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
August 23, 2022 at 11
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:05. Members read the minutes of the August 16th MLB meeting. Bill moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the August 16th WG&E installs meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Sheila said that she and people in other towns have experienced internet problems after 8 pm. Download speeds among users in various towns have dropped to single digits after 8 pm. Whip City has received similar reports and has said that they are looking into it. David said that there were like reports at the Wired West Board meeting on August 17th. Sheila said that she will send a message to Jim Drawe.

Sheila said that the last expense report from the Accountant is dated July 14. She said that she can provide an oral report at the joint MLB, Select Board, Finance Committee meeting on August 30th. She would prefer to create a broadband construction finance update when we have received the expense report from the Accountant.

Members examined the email attachment 'Heath Non-installed' that Betsy sent to Sheila on August 18th. There is a listing of 52 Heath addresses where there is no active installation. Members agreed that those where a cold drop has been completed can be omitted from the list the next time it is mailed.

David asked whether we've gotten anything back yet from Jamrog in terms of a proposed maintenance program for the hut's HVAC. Sheila said no and added that towns are hoping for a collective contract.

August 17th Wired West Board Meeting

David said that bylaws were amended. As part of the ongoing contract talks Jim Drawe will talk with Whip City Fiber the week of August 22nd. Jim reported that he is looking into billing issues from Ooma customers.

Members discussed the status of the \$50. deposits that people in Heath made early in the process of seeking a broadband installation at their house. At some time after the beginning of broadband service a \$50 deposit that hasn't been reimbursed must go back to the state. This impacts people who moved out of town or don't live in Heath any more.

Redundancy

David said that there is interest among the MLP representatives in learning more about the project by sending a letter to WG&E that could request one or more of the following:

- A timeline of milestones such as the delivery of equipment
- Weekly progress reports
- The name of the project manager through whom each town has to go

Sheila advised that there be a meeting of the MLP representatives of the Northern Cluster towns. David said he is hoping for unified action. Sheila cautioned that the terms of the grant not be compromised.

Emergency Protocol

Art has had initial discussions with Tim Lively.

Sheila said that she still has Tim and John's access cards to the hut. Members agreed that Tim and John should be given their cards with the message for John being to not let people in the hut unless they have a real need to be in the hut.

August 30th Joint MLB, Select Board, and Finance Committee Meeting

David will work on a pdf version of the Projected Cash Flow sheet with the wording of the last line changed to "Estimated funds possibly available to apply to MLB priorities". Sheila will send this to the Select Board and the Finance Committee before August 30th. Ned will send Sheila the email addresses of the Finance Committee members.

Art said that there are several things to be communicated at the meeting:

- MLP Statement of Priorities
- Sheila's reporting of milestones extended beyond what she sent for the Annual Report
- The installation report

Sheila will say that we're still finding interest in Mohawk Estates.

Art anticipated interest in the total cost. We need to wait until the redundancy project is finished to know how much Heath is paying and how much the state is paying. He will post the meeting and will call Hilma.

Office Space

The MLB needs to continue to communicate to the Select Board the need for office space for materials of the MLP Manager and of the MLB. The governor has said that meetings will have to be in person by a date in March of 2023.

Items for the 1:30 Meeting

- Buffering speed_and inconsistencies in the Muni network
- Hub communication
- Has the ONT been replaced?
- Can omit 'cold drops installed' from Betsy's list
- Schedule installs meetings for September and October

Bill moved that the MLB be adjourned at 12:21. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf