

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

Present: MLB: Art Schwenger, Anne Emmet, David Gordon, and Ned Wolf
with MLP Manager Sheila Litchfield

Absent: Bill Fontes

Art called the meeting to order at 11:00.

Members read the minutes of the October 4th MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Members read the minutes of the October 4th WG&E installs meeting. David moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote.

Sheila said that WG&E's Meet and Greet was informative with a good sense of camaraderie. Art and David, who also attended, agreed.

Sheila has discussed with Hilma the MLB's moving into a classroom at 18 Jacobs Road with the BoH once the Accountant has moved into a new space. Hilma thinks the move will be possible before the snow flies. Tim has shown Sheila furnishings that are available such as tables, a bookshelf, and a 2 drawer file cabinet. We may need a 4 drawer file cabinet or a second 2 drawer file cabinet. Any computer and printer would have to be the MLP's.

Sheila said that sorting documents to determine which have to be saved will take time and involve spreading materials out on tables. Anne suggested we check out Alice's collection of file cabinets. Also, there are government surplus stockpiles of office equipment. Anne will phone Alice and inquire about what's available. She will also ask Will about the stockpiles.

Anne suggested that there be a sign in the building saying 'Heath Broadband'.

Sheila has inquired about the cable damage at 239 Colrain Stage Road. The first person to report it was the property owner when he came home and saw it. The bill for the repair will come to Heath. The cable was raised as part of the repair work. Service has been restored.

Sheila said that the Accountant sent an email saying that he thought the Town's vote in August of 2020 to transfer \$200K from stabilization included a clause that the \$200K be returned to stabilization. If there doesn't have to be a Town vote, we will want voters to know what our intention is.

David, who talked with Rich Carnall at the Oct. 4th Meet and Greet, said that Rich is still optimistic that we will receive our CAF II funds in the first quarter of 2023. That might allow us to pay off the \$200K in this fiscal year.

Sheila said that a revision of the Drop Policy is needed make more clear to new customers what you do to get a drop.

She recalled Jessica's informing us of a customer's disputing a charge as fraudulent. The update is that there has been a resolution involving the customer's bank. Sheila wants to know what that resolution was.

Sheila said that Betsy reports no customers available for open installations appointments the week of October 10th.

The committee will consider telling Jenny Hamilton that she can send out an email to folks in Mohawk Estates saying that slots are available.

The committee agreed on 3 additional columns for the spreadsheet of non-installs: date of application, estimated cost of the drop, and amount due as a subsidy. There was agreement that customers should be informed of a date by which the installation must happen for there to be a subsidy. Members settled on June 30th 2023.

Action Taken *David moved that for those applications that are eligible for a drop subsidy they must arrange for installations by June 30th 2023 to receive the drop subsidy. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

David suggested that we contact people who have not become active customers. The letter can include the details of the Subsidy Policy that have been available during construction. The June 30th 2023 date in the above motion means there is a lengthy grace period.

Adding the 3 columns to Betsy's list of non-installs will require going into the CRM. We will give that list with the added columns to WCF.

Sheila said that she has received from Hilma an invoice from Kinsley for \$3K. Sheila has asked whether the invoice is for the MLP or for the Town of Heath. Can Kinsley indicate the address of the generator?

Redundancy

David forwarded to Sheila and to MLB members the following weekly update from John Leary for the RRR project for the Northern Tier towns:

1. I received an update from Sean Brown at Nokia, the High Level Design is making very good progress, there was an internal engineer's meeting on Tuesday of this week with Walid Amer the senior technical engineer. Walid is preparing documents for presentation of the HLD. We are on target for a 10/24 meeting with you to approve/reject HLD.
2. Thank you for sending off a letter of request to Bryan Johnson and Local Linx for a 10 gig circuit for backhaul. Both Brian Sullivan and I had a meeting setup with Bryan Johnson on Wednesday 10/4 to discuss proposed costs associated with the new contract with MBI. I, however, left work early on Tuesday because of illness and had to reschedule the meeting to Wednesday 10/12. The thought is that any cost must be competitive with pricing we are seeing from other vendors.
3. Rich Carnall has been in contact with Doug Norton at Access Plus. I've tasked Rich with gathering as much information as possible regarding backhaul mapping throughout Western MA. We want to be sure, with as much certainty as possible, that we identify any single points of failure to your network.

David said that he has received an acknowledgement of the letter sent to Bryan Johnson and Local Linx.

The list of questions for WCF at the 1:30 meeting is as follows:

- When will Heath's hut be inspected in the current round of hut inspections?
- Have there been any seasonal disconnects?
- Given the rate of installs is there any advantage to having the POD still in Heath?
- Have any of the customers in the recent "terminations" list actually been terminated?
- Can Heath please receive a current list of the uninstalled?

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:09. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf