

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLB
May 3, 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 11:03.

Members read the minutes of the April 26th MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes with corrections be approved. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 abstentions due to absence. Members read the minutes of the 1:30 WG&E installs meeting. David moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed with 3 ayes and 2 abstentions.

Sheila reported that she signed the DocuSigns CNST 21 and SERV 12 that appeared in the minutes of the April 26th MLB meeting and sent them to Robyn for her signature. She said that in the 1:30 meeting on April 26th Chris had answered the MLB's questions about the materials mentioned in the DocuSign CNST 21.

Action Taken *David moved that the MLB approves the DocuSign CNST 21. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Sheila said that the Dashboard shows 327 active, and 78 to be installed of which 48 are in FSA 4.

Sheila said she had just received an email from Brian Sullivan saying that neither Betty Loiko nor Chris LaVertu would be present at the 1:30 meeting and asking whether we have to meet. She said that we still need to resolve the cost of 612 8A. There was a consensus to send Brian an email saying that we do not have to meet with WG&E on May 3rd. In a letter to be sent later we can ask WG&E to confirm the costs we have for the installation at 612 8A.

Sheila said that Bill Ennen has added another amendment to Heath's state contract. He has sent the amendment to Sheila who has signed it and sent it to Robyn. After Robyn signs, it goes to Hilma who signs before sending it to Bill.

Sheila said that the generator test on May 3rd went OK.

Sheila noted that Chris sent to us on May 3rd a list of the top 25 bandwidth users in Heath. David questioned how we would use this data unless there has been an outlier. The town's

peak level of use has reached 1.2 gigabits for two weeks in a row. We've used some of our 2nd gigabit. But as long as we're well below 2 gigabits David sees no problems.

Bill said that it's streaming video that uses up bandwidth. We might want at some point to implement data packages where people pay a little more if needed.

In the same May 3rd email with a list of the top 25 bandwidth users Chris sent a fiber inventory. David recalled that we paid out of WG&E's inventory for the damage incurred by the cable in FSA 3 along Taylor Brook Road. At that time FSA 3 had not been released. Art said that Joe Parda told us that all damage including the cable would be covered by builders' risk insurance.

David said that the total cost of the spool of the 216 count cable minus the credit we got back was \$7,468.25. The reel went back into inventory at WG&E.

We need to inform Dave Poplawski of our intention to keep our retainage for the 216 ct fiber that was used plus MST work in FSA 4 and any other work still to be done.

Bill said that we will want to talk with the customer at 11 Bellor Road. We will look over the information Chris has sent, get whatever more information the customer needs and be prepared to talk with the cannabis farmers.

Sheila said that Heath has received a second National Grid bill. She is working it out with Jessica, Wired West's accountant.

David said that he has worked with Bob Handsaker, Chair of the Charlemont Broadband Committee, on Center Heath Road reimbursements. Charlemont is contributing \$500. Toward the drop cost at 14 Center Heath Road. We will owe the customer money because they paid the estimated full amount. David said it sounded like Bob was OK with what we sent him. David doesn't think Charlemont expects another invoice, but we'll see.

Sheila said that we owe the customer at 612 8A \$518.28. David said that Chris has sent us up-to-date numbers on installation costs. Sheila said she wants to send WG&E a letter saying what we understand the costs for 612 8A to be and asking them if they have different numbers to please let us know.

The MLB wants to be sure that customers know of the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program. Sheila said that Heath has just one customer in the Lifeline program and fourteen in EBB. WG&E pays half the cost of the flyer describing these programs.

Members discussed Art's draft that he sent to us the morning of May 3rd of a potential ATM handout. David said he liked the positive tone and would get Art numbers from the CRM the afternoon of May 3rd. Anne questioned the phrase "extraordinary effort" in the last paragraph. While most members agreed with sentences 2, 3, and 4 of the last paragraph, they recommended omitting them and using the freed up space for a contact information box.

Sheila said that Hilma would have copies made and either put them on chairs or have them at the door.

Members welcomed David's offer to email to them a copy of the Statement of Priorities of the Heath MLP approved at an MLB meeting on February 1, 2022. We will refer to this statement if there are questions at the ATM about paying off the loan for broadband or about the \$200,000 transferred from stabilization.

David said that the plan of the representatives of the MLPs of the Northern Tier towns at their meeting the evening of May 3rd is to finalize "deliverables" which they would then send to WG&E. He said that news on the Massachusetts Community Compact grant is expected around June.

Anne said that she can go to Laura Dorman of WG&E for her help in removing out dated information from the website.

David suggested it might be time to step up the pace of installations in FSA 4. Anne suggested encouraging customers to call WG&E.

Art said that as of next Tuesday May 10 we'll be using David's zoom information for the MLB meeting at 11.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:37. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

