

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting  
January 31, 2023 at 11  
Virtual meeting

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

Absent: Art Schwenger

David called the meeting to order at 11.

Members read the minutes of the January 31<sup>st</sup> MLB meeting with edits. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Members read the minutes of the January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:30 WG&E installs meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager Report

Sheila reported that the emergency tree work needed on Taylor Brook Road was done by Asplundh on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Taylor Brook Road resident Bill Lattrell said that Asplundh did a great job. The fiber was not compromised. Sheila has called Jim Drawe. The bill will be sent to WiredWest.

Bill Fontes said that if the trees had threatened the electric wires, no one could have done any work without the electric company first examining the site. Members noted that MBI has fiber on poles on Taylor Brook Road but has not yet done any preventive maintenance by way of arranging tree trimming.

Sheila asked David about the visit to the Heath hub the morning of January 30<sup>th</sup> by a Kinsley technician. David said that he and Ned waited until the Kinsley technician Nick arrived at the hub at 10:15 expressing regrets for his delay. He was able to check the company's records on site and provided helpful answers to David's questions. Nick was the technician who appeared at the hub at 5 am on December 13, 2022 in an emergency response to the reported leak of coolant from the generator. He said that about half a gallon had leaked onto the concrete pad. As part of his level 2 service on January 30, 2023, he checked the coolant level and said it was fine. He said that if in the future they have to change the gasket, they will also change the water pump. He said that the battery will be 3 years old this March and recommended its replacement during the scheduled July service visit. The cost for the battery and labor is

\$336.07. Kinsley has used 6 South Road and 1 East Main St. as its Heath addresses. David said that he informed Nick that Heath MLP, P.O. Box 47, Heath. MA 01346 is the address to use.

Sheila said that Robyn has signed the SERV – 16 invoice. Sheila will submit the SERV-16 invoice to the Accountant.

Letter to Ms. Carolyn Kirk, Executive Director, MassTech Collaborative

David referred to a draft that he sent by email to Sheila and the MLB on January 30<sup>th</sup>. The letter expresses concern about the process to award the contract for operation of the Middle Mile. The anticipated date of notification of the award, as stated in MBI's RFP, was November 30, 2022. As of January 31, 2023 the contract has not been awarded.

David said that Charlemont is asking us to sign a contract with Verizon. Charlemont and Rowe have already decided to go with Verizon. Heath will have to decide. It would be helpful to have concrete cost estimates from MBI.

Members suggested several edits to the letter to Carolyn Kirk. There was interest in getting the letter out as soon as possible. People to be Cc'd include John Leary and Tom Flaherty of WG&E as well as Linda Dunlavy, who works for the FRCOG and is an MBI Board member.

**Action Taken** *Bill moved that after the agreed upon edits have been made we will send the letter to Carolyn Kirk. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

We will send the letter to Art for his approval. Sheila can add Art's signature. Sheila and the MLB expressed their thanks to David for his work on the letter.

Bill checked whether payment has been received for the network extension on Bellor Road. Sheila said that customers' payments went into the Stripe account and from there to the Heath MLP.

Sheila said that Hilma has told her that starting April 1<sup>st</sup> town committees will need to think about meeting in person. Sheila has asked Hilma for a phone, a phone extension, an extension cord, and power strips so that the MLB could meet in our designated space at 18 Jacobs Road.

There was a consensus to meet weekly through February. We will inform Art. Presently, the meeting day for the 1:30 installs meeting is set to be the last Tuesday of each month. Bill and

other MLB members expressed concern about Whip City Fiber's slowness to respond to some of our questions. Sheila said she would relay that concern to WCF.

The MLB agreed that Betsy no longer has to send a weekly report on installations, only when there's a change.

Sheila said that Robyn has signed SERV-16. Sheila will submit it to the Accountant.

Anne said that she has received back issues of the WCF newsletter. No other member has. David suggested requesting that WCF send out old newsletters every 2 weeks until we're caught up.

Bill advised that customers needing to boost their WiFi use a Mesh system.

Bill said that he has spoken with Joe, the project manager of the cannabis farm planned for Bellor Road. So far there has been no growing of cannabis. A fully operational farm would have 5 commercial accounts. At this time just 11 Bellor and 92 Sadoga are paying customers.

David sent to members by email on January 24<sup>th</sup> a copy of the most recent revision of the Drop Policy dated November 16, 2021. Anne volunteered to redline the document for further discussion.

The November 16, 2021 revision of the Drop Policy has also been available on Google Docs. Sheila asked the MLB if there was interest in having her daughter Katelyn introduce us to using Google Docs. The MLB said yes.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:27. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

