

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

March 21, 2023 at 11

Virtual meeting

Present: 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.

Members read the minutes of the March 7th MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits including those sent to the MLB by Sheila before the meeting. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila has looked over SERV 17 which she received on March 20. The person who signs is supposed to be the MLP Manager and not Robyn. But the line on which Sheila would sign has 'Robyn Provost-Carlson' printed directly beneath it. Sheila has requested that WCF send a new document to her with the correction.

David expressed concern about the materials inventory check that comes with SERV 17. The check is in support of credit to Heath for materials left in the POD. He notes that '355' for the number of ONTs installed in Heath sounds about right. But the '472' for the number of drop cables used seems high, especially if just one drop cable per install were used. Bill suggested that the '472' could be due to using a drop wire for the aerial portion of an underground install. David has sent Chris an email asking for more background for '472'.

Sheila said that at the March 15th WiredWest meeting there was a lengthy discussion of digital equity. Other towns are enthusiastic and wanting to get a grant for which the FRCOG can provide guidance. She will follow up by telling Hilma that we think digital equity is important.

Sheila said that files are in our office space at 18 Jacobs Road but nothing has yet been put away. She said that there has been no answer yet on whether town committee meetings will have to be held in person starting with a given date. There was a consensus to set the office up to retain the option of meeting there. Sheila will meet with Bill for setting up the office space the morning of April 3rd at 9.

Sheila said that at some point when the office has been set up Katelyn Marshall can show the MLB how to use Google Drive. Sheila said that WCF is moving towards putting more documents online.

Sheila said that she has signed the Verizon agreement with backhaul Appendix.

David requested that Sheila scan the document and send it to him. Now that all 5 towns may be sharing in the agreement, the agreement may have to be amended.

Art asked for any news of how the recent storm affected broadband in Heath and nearby towns. Sheila said that in Heath there was no internet outage. David said that Rowe was completely without internet. A burn occurred on the MBI segment from Rowe to Charlemont which passes through Heath. Sheila said that the cost of repairs to that line goes to MBI.

David asked whether the Heath to Rowe fiber connection, which presently is not being used, might have been damaged. Bill asked whether the fiber from Heath to Rowe takes the same route as the MBI fiber from Rowe to Charlemont.

The RRR Project

David reported the welcome news that on March 10th John Leary confirmed that MBI/Local Linx is committed to 10 Gbps pricing of \$1700 mo along with contract rollup of any existing 1 Gbps line into a 60 mo contract for the clustered towns of Western MA. David said that Bob Handsaker of Charlemont said Charlemont has shown interest in sharing the MBI circuit as well. Bob will be going to his Board for approval. The projected date for the beginning of testing of the verizon circuit is April 24th.

Would Leyden or WCF have a sharing agreement with MBI? David said he would like to see details of any sharing agreement from WCF.

Sheila said that if an appendix with backhaul provisions goes through, we'll need another meeting with the Select Board.

Questions for the 1:30 Installs Meeting with WG&E

MLB members contributed questions to the following list prepared by Sheila:

1. Was the Heath town network fiber between Heath and Rowe damaged during the snowstorm last week? We know the MBI fiber was damaged, so we are wondering if the town fiber should be evaluated for possible damage.

2. Can you please send us a map of the fiber network in Heath; Also do you have a map of the MBI fiber in Heath. It is not always clear which fiber is which as both are strung along some roads in Heath.
3. SERV-17: Heath really wants the document to be edited to omit Robyn's name and insert Sheila's name before we sign it. Is that ;possible to do? Denise said Sheila could sign it even though Robyn's name is on it. We would prefer to have the document corrected.
4. SERV-17: David sent a question to Chris requesting clarification on the number of drop cables used, 472 seemed high, unless there is an explanation.
5. Data Maps and cutsheets: link from Leanne works but the files are empty, are they supposed to be empty for Heath? (Sheila sent this question to Leanne but she is away until the 21st).
6. Shawnee CAFII properties. Heath wants to build our network along the road to 63, 67 and 69 Shawnee; Chris sent a proposal and Bill suggested a different proposal that we'd like feedback on.
7. Still waiting for WG&E additions to the Heath muni network management guidance document we sent you some time ago.

Dates of Future Meetings

Sheila and the MLB agreed on the following meeting dates for the MLB:

April 4, April 18, May 2, May 16, and May 30th. These meetings will be at 11. We will consult with WCF about having installs meetings at 1:30 on the afternoons of April 18 and May 16.

Bill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:10. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf