

## Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

June 27, 2023 at 11

Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11.

Members read the minutes of the June 13<sup>th</sup> MLB meeting. The following edits were suggested: Replace the second sentence of the first paragraph on page 2 with “Sheila said the transfer needs to occur prior to Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> based on when the Assessors compile the recap sheet.”; and in paragraph 8 on page 2 add to that sentence “as the others have paid the invoice.” Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. David seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

### MLP Manager’s Report

Sheila said that WG&E now has a standard drop cost table that can be used for planning. They are offering a lower cost for drops up to 500’ in length. The new standard overhead installation cost for installations up to 250’ is \$1,100 including materials.

David said that in Heath WCF is holding to existing estimates. WCF’s subcontract for installations is now with Sertex.

Sheila said that the customer at 186 Sumner Stetson Road is paying 100% of the MST installation.

Kinsley will visit the hut on July 6, 8 – 9 for preventive maintenance. Sheila plans to be there.

Around 1 pm on 06/29/23 there will be an RRR outage lasting up to half an hour, the purpose of which is to connect Heath to the broadband network.

Northeast IT has been informed that Heath’s static IP address will be changed on 06/29/23.

Sheila said that Verizon hasn’t received the MIIA certificate of insurance. She has sent the certificate to WCF so they can send it to Verizon. She has also sent it to the Town of Heath and to Wired West. Wired West has paid the invoice.

Sheila has received from John Leary an assurance that Heath has access to documents related to the network construction. Bill said he is interested in seeing the cut sheets.

Sheila has received a check for \$3,399.44 from Wired West. The check comes from customer payments above subsidies for installations. She will add it to the cash flow sheet.

#### Wired West Alternate Delegate

This position in the past has been on the Select Board's list of appointments to be made. Hilma is asking that we inform her as to who the delegate and alternate are starting July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sheila said that she will be the delegate and David will be the alternate. There was a consensus that if David and Sheila both attend the Wired West Board meetings there will be increased attention to items that should come before the MLB. MLB members in addition to David are welcome to attend Wired West Board meetings.

Sheila will draft a letter informing the Select Board that she is the delegate and David is the alternate. She will get Art's signature and send the letter to the Select Board.

#### New Phone System

Sheila said that she will be present for training for the new phone system the morning of June 28<sup>th</sup>. Bill said he will be at 18 Jacobs Road around 2:30 on June 27<sup>th</sup> to work on the new phones including the one for the MLP.

#### RRR Project

David forwarded to members the June 24<sup>th</sup> report from John Leary stating that they had a great week of testing and are looking forward to going live in Rowe on Monday June 26<sup>th</sup> and live in Leyden on Tuesday June 27<sup>th</sup>.

They still haven't heard from Verizon about a possible Charlemont/Adams connection. That looks less likely.

There has been no administrative agreement for the MBI connection in Leyden. The cost sharing agreement will be between WCF and each town. The MLP Managers will sign the contract.

#### Tree Work

Bill said that tree trimming near a fiber line that is on a pole with no electric power line does not have to be done by a certified tree company. The cost for that tree work should be less than Asplundh would charge.

David said that Jim Drawe is saying that the excess revenue coming to the towns in July will be 25% less than what Wired West projected. An extra cost was the work related to the snowfall in March. Wired West projected initially Heath's share of excess revenue to be \$125K while we used \$100K in our cash flow sheet.

### Broadband and Digital Equity Summit

Anne referred to her Summary, Massachusetts Broadband and Digital Equity Summit, June 13, 2023 which she emailed to Sheila and the MLB on June 26<sup>th</sup>. The Summit was primarily for representatives of populations without Broadband. There was no discussion of using infrastructure bill funds to help pay Broadband debt.

Sheila's time is taken up with Broadband matters other than digital equity. Art volunteered to follow up on digital equity.

### Date of Next Meeting

There was a consensus to schedule one MLB meeting in July on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 11.

In addition we will schedule an MLB meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> at 11.

### Items for 1:30 Meeting

Sheila sent to WCF before the 1:30 meeting on June 27<sup>th</sup> the following list:

1. map of Heath fiber network that we have been requesting; might it be included in the file shared by Thomas Davis today?
2. still wondering about the cause of the May 23rd outage in Heath
3. The list Betsy sent today of remaining installs- we'd like to review it with you to determine if some should remain or be removed and we also want to know what you do with old applications that were never installed?
4. Discuss meetings going forward.

Anne left the meeting at 12:15.

David said that WCF may have recently sent a way to access cut sheets, maps, and other documents.

Sheila said that she asked Betsy what she had for an installs list. Betsy sent a list with 21 names to be scheduled. It includes an address for the Town of Heath. There was a consensus to request that address be archived because the Town of Heath is now on a muni-network.

Bill recommended that we keep the 3 addresses that are associated with the cannabis farm.

We can ask at the 1:30 meeting what other towns are doing with old applications that haven't yet been installed.

David reported receiving an email from John Leary with the news that Leyden got switched to RRR on June 27<sup>th</sup>. It took just 5 minutes.

Bill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:42. David seconded the motion. The motion passed with 4 ayes and 0 nays

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf