

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
December 10, 2024 at 11
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Minutes

Members read the minutes of the MLB meeting on Nov. 12th. 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 MLB meeting on Nov. 19th with the Select Board. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Sheila said that she would send members a copy of the ad for the position of MLP Manager. She said that Hilma reports no responses yet to the ad.

Anne asked under what circumstances the MLP Manager has to be at a particular place at a particular time. Sheila said that all meetings are remote with the exception of going to the Select Board meetings. Municipal records do have to be stored at the MLP office at 18 Jacobs Road.

The position has been posted on Heath's website. Have people in Mohawk Estates been told of the opening? Bill will reach out to Jenny Hamilton. He said he has posted the position on Facebook for each of the towns Heath, Colrain, and Shelburne. Sheila has already informed the other MLP Managers. David has told Charlemont MLB member Bob Handsaker. Sheila will tell Sarah Reynolds, Town Coordinator of Charlemont. Sheila will ask Hilma to do the FRCOG distribution page.

Sheila said that the insurance policy for our fiber plant ends on January 8th. The WiredWest Board is still exploring a joint policy for members of the Coop.. David recommended checking whether we're insured for 80% of plant, even excluding drops. Has our policy been updated for new data from us and from Jim Drawe?

We need to check that equipment in the broadband hut is covered by the town's insurance policy.

Jim Drawe is trying to get information on why both UPS units in Heath's hut failed. Technicians have replaced both units. They claim to have seen mouse damage in the hut.

Sheila will attend the MLP Managers meeting on Dec. 11th. Bill suggested alerting the other towns to exploring alternative routes for National Grid's 3-phase electric projects. Since pole transfer costs for these projects will be shared by WiredWest, it's worth exploring alternate routes.

Checks from WCF to the Town

Kris wondered what the 2 checks she recently received from Whip City Fiber (WCF) were for. WCF has said that they were for police detail. WCF pays Heath for police detail and bills WiredWest. Members suggested WCF indicate on the memo line what a check is for.

Charlemont Pole Hearing

Bill reported that people in Charlemont asked questions for which National Grid had no answers. National Grid is not mandated in any of the towns to add 3-phase electric lines to those already there. There was a consensus in the Charlemont MLB that towns shouldn't have to pay for the transfer of broadband cable to new poles.

Tasks of the MLP Manager

David asked on behalf of the MLB that Sheila please send us a list of the tasks in order that we might think about how to divide them among ourselves if that need arises. Sheila said she will work on a monthly plan to give us.

Dates of Next MLB Meetings

The MLB discussed when our next meetings would be.

Action Taken *David moved that the next 3 MLB meetings take place at these times:*

*Tues., January 7 at 11,
Tues., February 4 at 11, and
Tues., March 4 at 11.*

Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

David will look into setting up a Zoom account in the name of the Heath MLP.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:03 pm. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf

