

DRAFT

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

June 18, 2024 at 11

Virtual meeting

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

Absent: Anne Emmet

Art called the meeting to order at 11.

During public comments we heard a potential customer request that we waive her \$1100 installation cost. She spoke of having medical issues. She says that she and her husband can pay the monthly subscription cost but that the installation cost is too much.

Art thanked her for expressing her concern and told her that the MLB would discuss her request.

Minutes

Members read the minutes of the May 28th MLB meeting. Edits were made. Bill moved that the minutes be accepted with edits. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Art's Reply to Robyn's Letter

Sheila read a letter from Robyn to the MLB asking what happened to the spools of unused fiber that used to be on a pad inside the roundabout at 18 Jacobs Road. Robyn referred to the spools as town property for which the Select Board is responsible.

Art read a draft of his letter in reply. He acknowledged that the fiber belongs to the town but added that by Massachusetts law the MLB manages the equipment, its disposition, and its disposal. This includes fiber. He also said that there had been a shortage of communication. MLB members appreciated Art's work on the letter. There was a consensus to add that we intend in similar situations to inform the Select Board as a courtesy and that as always we will return to the town any excess funds.

She will then send a letter with Art's signature to the Select Board.

Meeting with Whip City Fiber about FCC Complaint

Sheila said that she had met at 9:30 am on June 18th with WCF about an FCC complaint of price gouging. She forwarded to Brian various pieces of information about the Heath MLB's policy for drop subsidies.

\$1,100 is Whip City Fiber's (WCF) standard drop cost for all customers. It is not a Heath complaint but a WCF complaint. By providing WCF information we assist WCF in this. If the customer complains and wants to take it further, the only way we will know that is from WCF.

MLB members said they want to increase the number of subscribers but do not want subsidies to reduce our ability to pay off the town's debt.

Sheila said that WCF can set up a payback plan for customers.

Sheila said that she is expected to report to WCF that we have discussed the FCC complaint.

There's no word yet on whether the Affordable Connectivity Program will be reauthorized.

Bill moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:32. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf