

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
April 1, 2025 @11
Virtual

Present: Art Schwenger (Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Ned Wolf, and
MLP Manager Bailey Cole
Absent: Bill Fontes

Art called the meeting to order at 11:25.

Members read the minutes of the April 1st MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with amendments. David seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey mentioned the alarm due to a brief loss of power on March 21st. Other than that there have been no issues.

He will ask Whip City Fiber (WCF) when they will replace the inverter. David expects WCF to bill us for that.

Bailey says that he has had a good conversation with Jim Drawe who says he doesn't like the Tripp Lite UPS that WCF just installed for us.

We received a propane delivery. Bailey said he forwarded the invoice on March 21st. We are expected to pay for operating costs.

Bill has offered Bailey his access card to the hut. Bill will be leaving the MLB this May. Bailey will collect the card on May 5th to add to the cards of Tim Lively and John McDonough.

Pomeroy came out and completed the HVAC maintenance. Bailey has forwarded the invoice to WiredWest. He asked about dealing with invoices in general. David suggested waiting for a meeting before forwarding the invoice unless it is routine in which case there's no need to wait for a meeting.

Bailey said that his telephone meeting with Art and Jon Gould, Paul Mark's District Director, went well.

Spring Rideout

Bailey said that at a recent WiredWest Board meeting there was a discussion of having a spring rideout that does not include checking poles, just the hub. David suggested that not including poles this year could be due to how little was found to correct last year. The other MLP managers considered the lateness of those repairs that were made and did not feel there was a risk to the fiber. Perhaps have a rideout to check the poles and fiber every other year?

The MLB favored having the hub checked this year and seeing whether it's worth it. Bill said there are some checks of the hub that could be done remotely. The rideout will be a joint effort with a shared cost.

Bailey will reach out to Bill to do a ride-around checking trees, poles, and fiber.

WiredWest Board Meeting April 2nd

Heath received a credit from WCF. Where does it come from? Unlike the other towns, Heath is paying for 2 drops for the Municipal Network. The credit has to do with the Municipal Network, and it keeps getting replenished. Bailey will ask the other towns about receiving a credit. Each town receives a spreadsheet from WCF listing all charges. Do the spreadsheets point to where Heath's credit comes from?

The recent broadband outage due to bridge repair work on 8A is something we only heard about from Hilma. David asked Bailey to bring it up at the WiredWest meeting. Both Bailey and Art should be informed in a timely way about major work in town.

Pole Attachment Fees

We got a license for attaching the broadband fiber to 6 poles on Town Farm Road. David said that the invoice Bailey has seen is from National Grid. Bailey said he will put it on Google Drive.

MLP Manager's Hours

Art asked Bailey about his hours. He said his hours are good and average around 5 to 7 hours a week.

Alliance for Equity

Bailey reported from his attending a meeting in Northampton that Heath need not get involved. The Alliance is focused on towns that do not yet have broadband.

Updates on Operations

Art commented on how the exterior coating of the hut is decrepit.

We will look into the warranty. Bill suggested Bailey bring it up at the MLP Managers Meeting.

David said that he and Bailey should get together by Zoom for a financial review.

Anne said that she will delete 'Sheila' and replace with 'Bailey' on the website.

Date of Next MLB Meeting: Virtual Meeting, Tuesday, May 6 at 11 AM

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:37 PM. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf