

DRAFT

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting

May 6, 2025 @11

Virtual

Present: Art Schwenger (Chair), Anne Emmet, David Gordon, Bill Fontes (at 11:23), Ned Wolf, David Peterson (visiting), and MLP Manager, Bailey Cole

Art called the meeting to order at 11:02.

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

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey said that a check of the hut's smoke alarm is scheduled for Thursday, May 8.

He said that he has exchanged emails with Jaime Cincotta about the inverter replacement. It may be necessary to follow-up by contacting another person at Whip City Fiber (WCF) for that service.

He has followed up with United Concrete about the stucco coating of the hut. The company says that if they receive photos of the cracks, the problem will likely be fixed under the warranty.

Bailey reported no customer complaints. He and Bill have yet to schedule a rideout. He and David have yet to schedule a financial review.

Heath does not pay the monthly costs of the 2 municipal network drops. Every month a bill goes to WCF for all drops, and Wired West pays it. We are not receiving anything from the Town for those 2 drops. As long as the credit that has appeared on an invoice from WCF doesn't increase, it's OK.

Proposed Extension of 3-Phase Power up Avery Bk Rd and onto Taylor Bk Rd

Art said that National Grid is careful to say that they are still exploring how it will work and don't care to talk much about the specifics. They have identified trees but have yet to mark them. They offered to send a report indicating which trees in the proposal would be cut down.

Bailey said that National Grid has said in one proposal that following the completion of their work there would be 15 days for Heath to get a second bid in addition to National Grid's to move our fiber.

David said that we need to be clear to National Grid that the default company to move our fiber is WCF. We should get a quote from WCF and maybe from another fiber company.

We can't expect WCF to give a quote before they have seen more details of National Grid's proposed plan. Robert Ide is a senior program manager at National Grid in corporate affairs. Bailey said that Robert Ide has called the project so big that no other town goes through so much detail.

Bill said that he counted 45 poles coming up Avery Brook Rd. We may have customers who have long drop wires.

David said that if we need to pay WCF to transfer fiber, that will be a shared cost. New drops are not a shared cost, but we should bring them up at WiredWest meetings.

Art said that in the past there was concern in going up Burrington Rd about the cost of police detail. There has been a question as to who decides whether a police detail is needed.

There was a consensus that it's premature to talk about Heath's seeking a bid for transfers within 15 days. Bailey will seek more clarity. More communication with Bob Ide is needed. Art said we will want to learn more.

Operations

Bailey said that he has received 2 emails, one from USA Central Station and one from Kohler regarding the recent test of the hut's generator. David said he received just the first email. Bailey will follow up with Kinsley asking about the second email.

Art and Bailey agreed to set up a 90 day review of Bailey's job as MLP Manager.

Art will ask the Moderator at the Annual Town Meeting on May 10 for the mic to give recognition to Sheila for her work on Broadband. He will announce a potluck on June 7th at the Community Hall to express appreciation for her vital role.

Members expressed many thanks to Bill Fontes, who is leaving the MLB, for his valuable contributions. Bill said with appreciation that he will still be around.

Date of Next MLB Meeting: Virtual, Tuesday, June 3 at 11 AM.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf