

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
September 3, 2025 at 10 am
Virtual meeting

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

Absent: Dave Peterson

Art called the meeting to order at 10:07 am.

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey reported that Cebula's security system has been bought by Encore. The WiredWest towns will be looking at a new security system to take over the 5 huts.

We finally got the invoice from United Concrete for the hut. They said that the hut warranty expired after 365 days and that the deterioration of the external concrete was just cosmetic. The company won't send a truck to fix something that is just cosmetic.

David Gordon pointed out that the first time there was a problem with the hut exterior United Concrete did not question the applicability of the warranty.

Bailey said that he has talked with another person at United Concrete who has said that our hut is out of warranty. Art said that they fixed it before and should fix it now. Jim Drawe should know about the situation. Bailey will follow the MLB's suggestion and bring the matter up at the WiredWest meeting on September 3.

Bailey said that no grants for drops are currently available through Broadband Equity Access and Development (BEAD). BEAD is state money via MBI. Some towns have set up their own funds for drops.

He said that an interruption of service has been resolved. David Gordon asked whether Bailey gets emails from WCF when they do service repairs. He said that he has received such emails a couple of times but not on a weekly basis.

Bailey said that the check for Heath's WiredWest distribution has been received by Hilma.

Bailey said he will stick with Zoom for MLB meetings rather than switch to Microsoft Teams. Although Microsoft Teams would cost \$159 /yr, which is less than the \$242 /yr cost of Zoom, Zoom is significantly simpler to use. The MLB agreed to stay with Zoom and get a year's subscription. Bailey will use his credit card and send the expense to WiredWest. He will see that David Gordon gets reimbursed.

Bailey said that he is working on a maintenance checklist for the hut.

The 3-Phase Electric Project

Bailey has communicated with Jean Charles of National Grid who has told him that National Grid cannot share any detailed maps of the proposed project. Jean will see if they can identify the existing poles. Bailey said that as soon as he gets any more information about the project, he will forward it to WCF.

Bailey said that National Grid has assured Charlemont that it will have no transfer fees for the portion of the project in Charlemont.

Both David Gordon and Art Schwenger recalled hearing a representative of National Grid imply that the company would help Heath with the cost of transfers. The MLB agrees that the Heath Selectboard should be informed that Charlemont won't have to pay anything for transfers. David and Art will confer on how to inform the Selectboard.

Anticipating Sept. 3 WiredWest Meeting

There will be discussion of a new security company, possibly Hackworth Systems. David Gordon said that what all 5 towns want will include these features that Sheila had as MLP Manager:

- Real time video,
- Remote unlocking of hut door, and
- Recorded video.

Bailey said that he has forwarded to WiredWest the Verizon bill of \$3,343.93 for pole attachments fees. It will be on the warrant for this evening's WiredWest meeting.

Bailey said that following the meeting he will have estimates of new security costs to compare with what we have been paying.

Financials

David Gordon said that he and Bailey need to get together for a discussion of Cash Flow. At the next MLB meeting we will need to decide on how much to transfer to the Town. We will also need to put money into the Depreciation Reserve.

Anne asked about a possible reserve for unexpected costs. David Gordon said that we can rely on WiredWest to cover unexpected costs. Also, we have held back in transferring funds to the Town as we focus on the MLB's top priority which is "critical network needs such as maintenance, expansion, and repairs."

Website

Bailey has no issues to report on the website.

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, October 9 at 10 am.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:55 am. David Gordon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf