

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
November 6, 2025 at 10 am
Virtual meeting

DRAFT

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

Art called the meeting to order at 10.

Members read the minutes of the October 16 MLB meeting. David moved that the minutes be approved as amended. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey reported that alarms went off in the hut. It appears to have been related to a communication error. The quick fix is to reset the alarm panel. Cebula is working on this matter.

Bailey has emailed National Grid that avoiding costs for transfers in the 3-Phase Electric project would help Heath. What about Heath? National Guard has not responded.

David Gordon noted that David DeVore in Rowe and Bob Handsaker in Charlemont have been told by National Grid that their respective towns don't have to pay transfer fees.

Bailey has been asking for clarity from Joanne DeRose, National Grid's Director of Community Engagement, Western Massachusetts. She is the supervisor of Bob Ides, the 3-Phase Electric Project Manager.

Art will call Robyn and make clear to her that Heath needs clarity from National Grid regarding whether or not it is free from paying the cost of transferring the fiber.

Bailey said that he is done with listing the items in hut maintenance. He will forward the list to the MLB.

He recently saw lights on that indicate some error on APC equipment. The life of the APC unit, one of the UPS units, is short lived.

Wired West Board Meeting 10/15/25

They have been reviewing an RFP for insurance. David Gordon suggested they contact WCF about taking the lead in sending out the RFP.

Bailey said that PURMA appears to be a nonstarter. It seems to have a \$20K deductible which is too high.

Art asked whether we're leaving the question of supporting Hackworth as a replacement for Cebula in the air? Bailey said that he has yet to receive any replies to his inquiries to Hackworth about monitoring and card access.

David Gordon said that he went to Rowe the day that Hackworth installed a new security system. They do have to replace the control panel, but the needed wiring is there. The alarm system seems to be better than Cebula's. They can support card access. They monitor all that Cebula monitored. David favors our switching to Hackworth if and when we get a written quote where they list what is being monitored.

There was a consensus to wait until our next meeting to vote on whether to recommend Hackworth as a replacement for Cebula.

Bailey said that he will forward any quote to the MLB.

Certification of the Use of CAF II Funds

Members recalled that last year we requested a letter from the Select Board confirming that the CAF II distribution would be used for broadband purposes.

Performance Report

Bailey sent to the MLB on Nov. 6 his performance report for October.

Disconnecting Customers

Dave Peterson asked what communication if any with WCF occurs before someone is disconnected. Bailey said that WCF does ask him whether he has information about a customer whose broadband service may be stopped. David Gordon recalled that 2 or 3 years ago the MLB went over the process about late payments with customer service at WCF, and the MLB was satisfied with the process at that time.

Updating Cash Flow Sheets

Bailey updated Cash Flow information which he sent to David Gordon. It may be possible to have this exchange once a month. David said his report was finalized on Nov. 5 following communications with the Town Accountant, however, there are questions that remain.

The Unreserved Fund Balance as of 6/30/25 is according to the Accountant \$68,035.80. The Depreciation Reserve Fund Balance is \$111,621.68.

Action Taken *David Gordon moved that we direct the Accountant to appropriate from the Unreserved Fund the FY 2025 \$35,743 and the FY2026 \$35,743*

*to the Depreciation Reserve Fund. Anne seconded the motion.
The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Other funds that need to be appropriated to the Depreciation Reserve Fund are the interest earned in FY 2025 and in FY 2026 (July and Aug.).

There also needs to be appropriated from the Unreserved Fund in FY 2026 the remaining amount budgeted for the MLP Manager Salary FY 2026 (\$14,000 budgeted).

Date of Next MLB Meeting: virtual meeting on Thursday, December 4 at 10 am

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf