

Minutes of the Heath MLB Meeting
May 7, 2026 at 10 am
Virtual meeting

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

Art called the meeting to order at 10:04.

Members read the minutes of the April 9 MLB meeting. Anne moved that the minutes be approved with edits. David Gordon seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

MLP Manager's Report

Bailey said that Pomeroy has done HVAC maintenance at the hut. An invoice will be coming. Pomeroy does maintenance at Heath jointly with maintenance at Rowe.

MLB members asked about filter changes. Bailey will check whether the filters were changed in the recent visit. He said it's important to keep the hut cool in summer.

Bailey said he has added 'HVAC maintenance' to the calendar along with the 'Resource Fair' for April.

He said that Robyn reports no document regarding pole transfers yet from National Grid.

David Gordon recommended that we add an executive session 'National Grid Agreement and NDA contract' on the agenda for our June 4 meeting because we may have received a related document from National Grid by that time.

Payment from Bank Account

Jessica, the Wired West bookkeeper, will reach out to Whip City Fiber on behalf of every Wired West town to find the names of customers who have not yet agreed to the procedure used for payment from a bank account.

Bailey will follow up.

2026 CAF II Distribution

The Town Coordinator and Bailey have contacted the Treasurer and the Accountant about the 2026 CAF II distribution in January. There is still no confirmation of receipt of CAF II in 2026.

Dave Peterson advised that Bailey to follow up.

Present Pole Placement

David Gordon said that Bill Fontes has noticed that the transfer of cables in accordance with normal procedures will be difficult with the present pole placement. This has been pointed out to Whip City Fiber (WCF) and to National Grid. WCF is not concerned and National Grid has not responded.

Drop Policy

Anne noted that there was a drop policy in 2021 that was revised in 2023 and 2024.

David Gordon suggested that we should review our 2024 drop policy and put 'review of drop policy' on the calendar. Anne will email us the latest drop policy for our review at the next MLB meeting.

Depreciation Reserve Fund

Dave Peterson said that the town's stabilization fund goes into the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust (MMDT) which yields at least 3.5% interest. The MLB discussed a proposal that the Depreciation Reserve Fund also go there.

Dave said that the MMDT is well established and is run by a company that's been around for a long time. David Gordon thanked Dave for his work and asked whether there would be fees. Dave said an operational fee is imbedded.

David Gordon said that the MLP will not need any money from the Depreciation Reserve for at least 2 years.

Action Taken *David Gordon moved that the MLB send a letter drafted by Dave Peterson to the Town Treasurer to direct the Town Treasurer to move the Depreciation Reserve Fund from Unibank to the Massachusetts Municipal Depository Trust as described in the letter. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

The letter will be included as an appendix with the minutes.

David Gordon asked Bailey what paper records might we not have stored digitally. Bailey said that he will check.

Website Changes

Anne recommends we focus on the broadband page first as if we are new to town and wanting to sign up. She suggested a number of changes including deleting any mention of ACP, a program that expired in April of 2025.

Action Taken *Dave Peterson moved to accept and move forward with changes recommended by Anne on the Heath Town Website and the Whip City Fiber page for Heath including the removal of obsolete and incorrect information. David Gordon seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Members thanked Anne for her work. She offered to come back next meeting. The MLB agreed to add 'website check' to the calendar.

Anne moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:40 pm. Dave Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf