

Town of Heath

Meeting minutes

Heath Municipal Light Plant Advisory Committee

Date/time: 7/16/19 at 9:30 am

Location: Sawyer Hall

Called to order at 9:37 AM by Art with Jan, Ned, Jan and Sheila present.

Agenda was reviewed.

Review of minutes. Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve minutes of 6/11/19 and 6/25/19 as submitted. Minutes of 7/9/19 were approved as edited.

10:02 am WG&E conference call began: Joe Parda, Rich Carnell and Tom Broderick were on the call; Bob Bourke was not on the call. Discussed what actions were needed to move Heath's construction procurement process along so it can go out to bid; informed WG&E that we thought bids was already issued.

- Confirmed that entire Town including ME has been designed to provide fiber to every residence however the question remains as to whether empty lots or seasonal residents will take fiber service.
- WG&E counted every lot in ME as a potential customer.
- Policy on seasonal rates and disconnect/reconnect needs to be developed.
- WG&E will explore wireless option for future consideration as a means to provide service to ME seasonal residents. It was suggested that a wireless option can be a subsequent phase to draw additional ME customers in future.
- Tom Broderick indicated he plans site visit in August to discuss pole siting by hut and ME trench work for field split cabinet in ME near recreation hall.
- He would like this visit coordinated to include Tom Danek. B. Bourke will follow-up.
- Tom Colleck joined call; he is wrapping up design package; expects by July 29th will be complete. Discussed proposed IRU with Charlemont; WG&E suggests charging per strand mile fee to cover Heath costs; Heath repairs our fiber and the two strands in the jacket for Charlemont; this will be a recurring monthly cost; WG&E will work up costs for Heath to bill Charlemont.
- Chris LaVertu will work up public docs for bid.

- Clarity around for ME buildout is needed by time of the Bid presentation; planning to build fiber connection to the permanent residents and other who request it.
- Step one is to build hardwired full gig service then see how many seasonal residents will take it then consider layering in wireless option in ME possibly later. Will build network with consideration for possible wireless solution in future.
- Another option discussed is to offer ME a bulk rate/lump sum bill for service where ME then administers/has control of service to their residents.

Following the WG&E call, the Heath team discussed the need to follow-up with Colrain in preparation to meet with them re edge case; Sheila will find out.

Art will find out WiredWest policy info about seasonal customers, and also explore marketing schemes.

Next meeting 7/23/19 at 2:00 PM at Sawyer Hall

Jan moved to adjourn; Ned seconded; motion carried.

Adjourned at 12:00 PM