

Town of Heath

Meeting minutes

Heath Municipal Light Plant Advisory Committee

Date/time: 8/6/19 at 9:30 am

Location: Sawyer Hall

Called to order at 9:30 AM by Art with Jan, Ned, Jan and Sheila present.

Agenda was reviewed.

Motion was made, seconded and carried to approve minutes of 7/30/19 as submitted.

Plan to invite Jim Drawe from WiredWest (WW) to meet with us (possibly on Aug 13th; Art will follow-up. Confirmed 4 towns have signed on to remain in WW (Rowe, Washington, Windsor, New Salem).

Confirmed that the routine conference call update meetings with WG&E are scheduled for every other Tuesday at 10am; will schedule the Heath MLP meetings to coincide.

Confirmed that Bob Ryan, Leyden Broadband, is available to meet with us Aug. 20th.

Discussed Marketing campaign; need to find assistance; Sheila will reach out to a few possible candidates. Need to gather email addresses of residents for campaign.

Promotional benefits -

- being fiber-ready benefits resale value of a home
- DSL is 3 Mbps; Heath broadband will offer internet and phone (optional) at an economy speed of 25 Mbps and full speed of 1 Gig (1000 Mbps) which would enable streaming.

NOTE: get clarity from WG&E if the cost to make every residence fiber-ready is built into the PDU. Where is the Multiport Service Terminal (MST) located for each residence?

Jerry Fergusson stopped in to the meeting; confirmed he is available to meet with Bob and WGE on the 13th for hut pole siting.

Sheila indicated Bill Ennen is researching concerns Sheila raised regarding high cost of police detail and whether Heath could be liable for additional invoices from National Grid due to this.

Art suggested that where MLP Advisory Committee meets with BOS/ML Board that a separate/special agenda be created; all concurred.

Sheila shared Accountant Tracey Baronas' comments following a meeting Tracey had in Rowe with WW and Tom Scanlon, Rowe's Auditor, during which she gained better comfort level with the accounting method options associated with broadband, mostly because of learning that the MLP Manager and not the Accountant would be responsible for tracking and management of the broadband budget.

Websites; agreed to use options as follows:

- Heath site through WG&E- for subscriber signup and operational info, customer Q&A.
- Heath site through WW- (if Heath stays with WW) we'd use site for customer service # ; survey's and promotional info/marketing; would link to WG&E site
- MLP Advisory Committee page on TownofHeath.org- project status updates and minutes; links to WW and WG&E pages

Status of Governor's approval of Heath's broadband debt exclusion vote: Jan will follow this.

Broadband policy development:

Disconnect/reconnect policy – with WW policy enables a one-time disconnect for up to 120 days in a 12 month period without penalty fees; with WW is disconnect is longer than 120 days in 12 months cost to reconnect is \$99 and also the same cost of reconnect is requested. more than one time in 12 months.

NOTE: need disconnect/reconnect fees for WG&E

Drop policy- Will need to establish date by which sign up is required with incentive where cost of signup increases after that date.

Discussed ME; plan to meet with ME Board on Aug 25th at 1 pm and plan to have informational flyer for handout at ME annual meeting Sept. 1st.

Next meeting 8/13/19 at 1:00 PM at Sawyer Hall

Jan moved to adjourn; Ned seconded; motion carried.

Adjourned at 12:30 PM