

Minutes of the Meeting of the  
Heath MLP Advisory Committee  
January 21, 2020  
Sawyer Hall

Present: Art Schwenger, Ned Wolf, Jan Carr, Sheila Litchfield, Margo Newton at 10:45am, and  
Bob Bourke visiting

Art called the meeting to order at 9:39 am. Members looked over these bills in the mail:

- \$2,175.05 from Verizon, semi-annual billing for pole attachment
- \$4.54 from National Grid for electric fees at the hut, Meter # 05616950

Sheila made a motion seconded by Jan to pay the bills. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Sheila examined an invoice from Tom Danek for work he did near the hut. The first part of the invoice is for work that he bid on. The second part is for putting a blanket on the ground and for accommodating the wait for United Concrete. After some discussion Sheila made a motion seconded by Jan to approve paying the full amount of \$7795 for Tom Danek's invoice. The motion passed unanimously.

Jan volunteered to draft a letter to United Concrete regarding the costs involved in placing the hut due to 2 delays: December 10<sup>th</sup> instead of sometime in October; and 3:45 pm instead of 9 am. Bob will seek more clarity from Tom about the labor costs due to delays. Other costs to delays were on invoices from Jerry Ferguson and the crane company. The United Concrete bill for the hut, must have gone through WG&E. Art said that we can get paper copies of DocuSigns by requesting them from WG&E. We will package our concerns about the extra costs due to delays and send them to WG&E before sending a letter to United Concrete.

The BOS, Tim Lively, and the Highway and Fire Departments will be notified of the tour of the hut on Tuesday, January 28, 8 – 9 in the morning.

The minutes of the January 14 meeting were read. Jan made a motion seconded by Sheila to accept them with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Members turned to our communications with Bill Ennen. To apply for the \$154,000 of additional state aid we will need to send Bill the signature page of the construction contract. Sheila will check with Hilma as to whether she has received it. Sheila will also ask Hilma whether she has sent to Bill Ennen the quarterly report accompanied by an expense report.

At 10:45 am Margo joined the meeting. Jan said that she would send Margo a map showing permanent Mohawk Estates residents as well as CAF II designations.

Art and Jan have worked together for 5 hours on the PDU's listed in FSA1, and Jan has worked an additional 4 hours on those PDU's. It's turning out that many situations will require talking with people to determine their interest in getting the drops as listed.

Next the committee discussed Bob Handsaker's email regarding a draft of an IRU agreement between Charlemont and Heath related to serving future broadband subscribers in Charlemont on Warner Hill or on Bassett Road. Bob takes issue with the clause about pole leasing which says that if the pole supports cable that contains fibers for both towns, each town pays 50% of the leasing fees. It was agreed that Sheila in replying to Bob would say that Heath's intent regarding pole leasing is as written.

At this time there is nothing said in the agreement about backhaul. Joe Parada has said that it wouldn't hurt to get a statement about backhaul in writing.

Regarding people in Charlemont on Bassett Rd., members noted that they might be reached by bringing cable up from the south, but it is not known whether the state would support the make-ready costs. The state may feel it is more cost-effective for Charlemont to work with Heath on how to connect those people from Heath. Sheila will inform Bob of the Committee's priorities for our build including the need for electrical support in order to receive a town-sponsored drop.

The Committee reviewed Google Earth Maps to try to get a clearer picture of places in Charlemont on Bassett Rd. that might receive drops from Heath.

We will pass Tom Danek's \$7795 invoice on to the Selectboard only after Bob has gotten greater clarity about labor costs.

Art provided members with a summary report from WiredWest listing broadband service subscriptions with and without include phone as of January 15 from the towns of Rowe, New Salem, Washington, and Windsor. The data suggests WiredWest's viability even with a small number of towns.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf