

## Minutes of the Meeting of the MLP Advisory Committee

January 28, 2020

Sawyer Hall

Present: Sheila Litchfield, Art Schwenger, Margo Newton, Ned Wolf, Bob Bourke, and  
Bob Handsaker visiting 11:30 – 12:15

Art called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. Hut tour and generator test was scheduled for today at 8 am. Bob Bourke reported that Patty of United Concrete had phoned around 8 am to say that her guys are at the hut, but the generator can't be tested because the propane isn't yet connected. Bob said he emailed Osterman. Joe Parda of WG&E phoned Bob to say that he was aware of the situation. Bob will make arrangements for United Concrete to return and run the generator when everything that needs to be done has been done.

At 11:30 Bob Handsaker, Chair of the Charlemont Broadband Committee, arrived to discuss the edge case. There was some discussion of the 3 residences at the end of Bassett Road in Charlemont. Heading south from Heath one comes first to the Booths' house on the left and another house across the road from it. To the south east and set back from the road is an A-frame house. One reaches this house from the road by means of a long driveway. Electricity does not come to the house along the driveway but on poles along a swath through the woods. Bob Handsaker suggested that the owners of these houses could possibly become Heath broadband customers. It appears that Heath plows Bassett Rd. as far as the Booth house. Charlemont could pay for the distribution network. The drops for the houses near the road would be relatively low cost while the house with the long driveway would have a costly drop.

Committee members asked Bob Handsaker about Charlemont's drop policy. Bob said that Charlemont hopes to offer \$1400 to a homeowner who signs up now. He allowed that if 100% of the town subscribes, the town won't have the funds for all those subsidies, but said that if the town were in that position it would be poised for borrowing.

Sheila suggests that Art and Bob Handsaker send a joint email to TriWire asking for a quote on the distribution along Bassett Road south of the Mason house into Charlemont.

Bob Handsaker suggested that 'backhaul' not be mentioned in a Bassett Road agreement between Heath and Charlemont. A separate IGA will be developed to describe backhaul agreement.

When asked about the Berkshire Crane invoice Bob Bourke said that he has just a verbal communication from the company that there was a bid price with an 8 hour window and an additional fee due to the delay. Sheila does not have a copy of Berkshire Crane invoice; Bob Bourke will forward. Bob provided copies of the United Concrete bill. WG&E is paying the hut bill (and invoicing Heath in installments) and apparently the crane bill. Bob said that Tom Danek rewrote his bill citing \$375 for overtime labor due to the delay in hut arrival. Jerry Ferguson charged \$510 for waiting for the hut delivery. Bob will send any crane information to Jan.

Members reviewed the minutes for the January 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. Jan made a motion seconded by Sheila to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila said she obtained the signature page for the TriWire construction contract. Bill Ennen has been sent items needed for Heath to receive the \$154,000 in State funds.

There were questions about the DocuSign process. Apparently, Brian did not sign a DocuSign for \$7,441.04 and yet the town paid that invoice. It shows as a negative on David Fierro's expense sheet. Discussed revising the sequence to review DocuSign docs and invoices. Art will ask WG&E to send a paper copy of all documents.

The meeting schedule for February was established:

Feb. 4	11:00	
	1:00	conference call with Bill Ennen
" 11	9:30	
" 14	2:00	conference call with WG&E
" 18	9:30	
" 25	9:30	
" 28	2:00	conference call with WG&E

We hope sometime in February that the MLP Board will sign an edge case agreement with Charlemont.

Sheila said that we will need to post Executive Session meetings separately to ensure compliance with posting requirements.

Bob Bourke left the meeting at 1:05 pm.

Art and Jan have found in poring over the PDU list that it's time consuming to reconcile that list with the Assessors' list, the tax list, and the voting list. Jan said she could finish what she's working on by Friday and then meet with Margo. A meeting to get together with WG&E to review the PDU edits will be scheduled.

Mail: Certificate of liability from WG&E, 2 copies of the signature page for the TriWire construction contract.

Ned and Sheila will discuss a proposal to use either stabilization and/or the \$170,000 that Heath is to receive from the State in FY20 for repairs following Tropical Storm Irene could be used to support Heath's drop policy.

The meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ned Wolf