

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLP Advisory Committee

March 3, 2020

Sawyer Hall

Present: Sheila, Art, Ned, and Jan

Absent: Margo

Art called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm.

It was agreed to defer the minutes of 2/25 to a later date. Ned handed Sheila 2 copies of the Charlemont/Heath IGA signed by Charlemont.

Art spoke of a conversation in Heath with Larry, a Verizon employee who will be in charge of rideout. Larry had received from Joe Parda the photos that Art took of the telephone line along South Schoolhouse Road showing unfinished make-ready work.

Residences not on PDU list: There was discussion of these residences.

1:00 pm conference call with Bill Ennen: Sheila informed Bill that Heath has received another check from Verizon for a total of around \$114K. She told him that the MLPAC has recommended that the Selectboard sign with WiredWest. Bill commented on possible drops for residences not on the PDU list. He said that redesigns would not be part of make-ready. He said that Heath is not under contract to accommodate a residence with an address on a public way but with a driveway half a mile long. Sheila noted the expected \$20K - \$50K cost of the yet to be completed MBI connection to the Hut and asked whether that would be part of make-ready. Bill said that question has yet to be answered but that he will advocate for reimbursement of that cost. He said that in the final application for TrueUp all costs will be itemized.

Art asked Bill about possible project delays resulting from make-ready work still to be done along South Schoolhouse Rd. Bill made a note of .

The committee discussed refund checks from Verizon and questioned the need to create a new revolving fund into which those checks would go. Debbie Wagner of the DOR has advised that refunds should be returned to the account that paid. In Heath that would be the account for state broadband grants.

Bill notified the committee that our 'April' conference call with him will in fact be on Tuesday, March 31 at 1pm.

Residual make-ready: Once Verizon has said, "We're done", MBI has a 30 day window to clean up the remaining work. After the 30 days WG&E will schedule a 'rideout'. No representative of the town can participate in the rideout. When the rideout is over, WG&E presents a report to the utilities. There are no additional costs from the utilities. Between WG&E and TriWire they have a triage system to avoid demobilizing as has happened in Ashfield and Washington.

The date for pole attachment fees will be the date when Verizon and National Grid are finished. National Grid invoices annually in March for January – December of that year. Verizon invoices every 6 months in advance.

Bill requests that the quarterly report be sent sometime in March.

Berkshire Bank may have loan opportunities for people wanting to finance their drops. Jason is a contact person.

Invoice:

Phoenix Communications 17271            \$1,331.            Make-ready

Sheila made a motion seconded by Jan to approve the above invoice. The motion passed unanimously.

Members will study the expected drops and estimate their total cost.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf