

Minutes of the Heath MLP Advisory Committee

March 17, 2020

Conference Call Number 605-475-4083 Access Number 369594

Present: Sheila Litchfield, Jan Carr, Art Schwenger, and Ned Wolf

Absent: Margo Newton

Art called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Members read the minutes of the March 10th meeting. Sheila made a motion seconded by Jan to approve the minutes with emendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheila reported having attended an emergency planning meeting last evening. She said that the Town has received guidance from the Attorney General about postponing the Special Town Meeting (STM) that was scheduled for March 24th to April 14th. Committee members expressed interest in using what could be more time to form a drop policy. Interest was expressed in talking with Kent Lew of Washington and Bob Ryan of Leyden possibly by teleconference.

Sheila spoke of having talked with Alice Wozniak following the March 10th Selectboard meeting about her suggestion that if the 'go live' schedule is slipping, we might be able to wait until Free Cash is certified for funds to assist with drops.

Turning to the PDU review, Art and Jan plan to wait a few days. If Margo feels better, they will gather to complete the Mohawk Estates assessment. When Art and Jan went through the list, they came up with 465. That was using Armand's total of 117 likely subscribers at Mohawk Estates. Jan says there could be as many as 193 potential drops at Mohawk Estates.

Tomorrow night Art will take the contract with WiredWest, which the Heath Select Board has signed, to a WiredWest meeting for their signing. Art said that this would open up WiredWest's help for Heath in marketing. Gloria has said that she will help. Art said he thinks that it's good to start marketing early although we need to know the most recent estimate for the beginning of construction. Washington, Shutesbury, and other towns are good models. Sheila said that WiredWest will set up a broadband website for Heath, but that it would be premature to launch marketing until we have a drop policy.

Ned made a motion seconded by Sheila to approve a DocuSign for WG&E to do surveys in Heath at 24 Vincent Road, 37 Sherman Drive, and 612 Route 8A, the total cost not to exceed \$2250, for the purpose of estimating the costs of connecting each of those sites to the fiber optic network. Art asked about places on Sherman Drive other than 37. The committee noted how much more easily those places could be connected if 37 were connected. The motion passed unanimously. Following an email exchange with Rich Carnall of WG&E, Sheila said he would resend the DocuSign with a place to sign.

Art said that the last he's heard about the poles to be used in the construction is that WG&E will explore using Burrington Hill Road poles instead of going down South Rd. and turning left on Schoolhouse Road.

Sheila said we still haven't heard as to when UCP will return to the Hut to test.

Art said that we will call about when Rideout is happening.

Jan reported an email inquiry from a concerned citizen seeking more information about broadband. Ned recalled that Hilma and Selectboard members at the March 10th meeting asked the committee for an information sheet prior to the STM. We can request from Hilma and from Betty a label list of property owners. For next Tuesday the committee will gather ideas for a letter. Sheila asked Art to find out from WiredWest what money is available for sending out a letter.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf