Minutes of the Heath MLP Advisory Committee Teleconference Call
April 7, 2020

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

Art called the meeting to order at 9:35 am. Members read the minutes of March 31. Jan made a motion seconded by Margo to accept the minutes with emendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Art reported having seen work being done to install poles on Bassett Rd. in Charlemont.

Art said that he phoned Kent Lew to ask about Washington's policy for seasonal drops. Kent said that for construction and drops their policy has been the same for seasonal and year-round subscribers. When the network is operational, Washington is following WiredWest’s policy for seasonal subscribers.

Art turned to an email sent by Jenny Hamilton of the Mohawk Estates Property Owners Association, Inc., to him and to the Heath Select Board. She requests that if more information regarding Mohawk Estates is needed, please reach out to her so that she can communicate it to the Board. Margo said that Tracy had recently spent most of a day going around the Estates. Tracy reported in an email to Jenny on the status of posting numbers for 911. This was in the course of seeing whether broadband can be offered. There was a consensus that Art send Jenny a reply saying that work was being done by representatives of the broadband committee to determine whether broadband can be offered.

Margo says that many people in Mohawk Estates have just power to a pole. From the pole it may go to a conduit and then to a trailer. It may be just temporary service. Sometimes it’s hard to tell whether or not the power is on, and if it is on, where it goes.

The committee read the draft of a job description for the MLP manager that Sheila had sent. Members agreed to add 3 bullets: monthly report to the MLP Board, manage publicity in town, and draft policy for MLP Board approval. Sheila said we need to get used to using the name “ML Board” instead of “MLP Board”.

The committee reviewed the Mohawk Estates drop count. An early estimate of 117 was based on Armand’s work. Art and Jan started eliminating land only cases. They later came up with an estimate of 191. Margo gave an estimate of 203 which she said could go up to 210. Art asked Margo whether she is annotating on a map. She said that she has and might have an opportunity to make copies at Staples.

There was some discussion of what Heath’s drop policy should be. Could it be to offer up to $1000 for each drop? Members will work on estimating the cost of that policy.

Looking ahead to the conference call with WG&E on Friday at 2:00, Art said he would ask about the poles on Taylor Brook Road between Bill Lattrell’s and Mohawk Estates. The broadband conference calls in April are as follows:
April 10 at 2:00 pm  conference call with WG&E
14 at 9:30 am       MLPAC
15 at 7:00 pm       WiredWest Board meeting via Zoom
21 at 9:30 am       MLPAC
24 at 2:00 pm       conference call with WG&E
28 at 11:00 am      MLPAC
        at 1:00 pm  Bill Ennen

There was a motion by Margo seconded by Sheila to adjourn at 11:34 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf