

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Meeting
September 22, 2020

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

Art called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. Members read the minutes of September 8. Sheila made a motion to approve the minutes. Margo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The 2 sets of minutes for September 1 have been approved and uploaded by Sheila to the town website. Members read the minutes of September 4. Margo made a motion to approve the minutes as emended. Jan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Art asked whether there has been a reply since his sending Heath's 'contact list' to WG&E and TriWire. No member has received a reply.

Ned will send his new gmail address to Tom Kolek so that he can receive updates about the status of the build.

Sheila reported 2 invoices.

Aug. 10 – Sept. 3 from National Grid \$71.94 for electricity to the hut

Sheila made a motion to approve the invoice. Ned seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

July 1 – Dec. 31 from Verizon \$5,232.27 pole attachment fees

Sheila made a motion to approve the invoice. Ned seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Both Art and Ned raised questions as to whether the invoice for pole attachment fees should be handled by Wired West. Sheila will tell Hilma to hold off on paying the second invoice. Sheila will send an email to Jim Drawe to check on Wired West's role.

There was a discussion of the relationship between the committee and the MLP Manager. Members agreed on the importance of the presence of the MLP Manager at MLPAC meetings and at MLB meetings. The MLP Manager should at least sit in on MLPAC meetings . The discussion of the split of the work load between the manager and the committee is ongoing. Art said that the Select Board is still thinking of 10 hours/week for the MLP Manager with more hours at the beginning. Sheila has requested from Hilma a copy of the final version of the MLP Manager's job description.

Sheila said that she has been informed that she and Bob McGahan are the only 2 candidates for the position of MLP Manager at this point.

Sheila's interview is at 8 at the September 22 MLB meeting. Hilma has asked the committee if we have interview questions. Art said he would email these 2 interview questions to Hilma: How would you collaborate with the committee?, and What will be your way of handling 'public relations', a big piece of the job?

Committee members asked whether they have any voice in the process of choosing the MLP Manager.

Turning to Heath's application for additional state aid, Sheila said that before we send in the application Bill Ennen wants to check whether in the inspection of make-ready work there were any additional charges associated with sending WG&E engineers out into the field.

Questions for Friday's meeting were "Will the extra work needed in Heath Center delay service to the Community Hall or Town Hall?" and "Who is responsible for the extra tree trimming that may be needed to construct some of the drops?"

Art said that October 5 is our scheduled launch day for sign-ups. Jan said that we need to send our wording to WG&E and they will do the lawn signs. She said that we also need to decide on the postcard. Sheila recommended it have the same or similarly concise wording as the lawn sign. Jan will send 3 sign choices to Laura saying we would like to have our lawn signs by October 1.

Members reviewed Ken's list of 911 addresses which includes streets and/or routes written as follows: East Brook, West Brook, East Main, West Main, West Branch, Route 8A, and Number Nine. We will ask WG&E to make their street naming conform. This will come up in the 2 o'clock meeting with WG&E on September 22.

Ned will work on editing Heath's FAQ's appearing on a Whip City Fiber page of the Wired West website. He will also contact David Dvore about the non-functioning 'click here to sign up' buttons that appear under the small Center photo when one chooses town specific info for Heath or when one clicks on 'more information' following the paragraph that begins with Welcome Heath.

Jan suggested we ask WG&E how a potential subscriber would be directed to find the cost of that installation.

We will ask David Dvore whether other towns have a 'thermometer' on the website to measure the number of subscribers.

Jan said that in reviewing the 2020 Assessors Counter list from the 2019 version, 90% of the needed changes to the ME list are name changes (therefore not impacting drop eligibility). She will send the list to the MLPAC, Joe, Rich, and Ken. Jan said that the roads in Mohawk Estates in the CAF II block will have a fiber optic line.

Jan restated the need to communicate via Tips the services of Berkshire Bank. Remaining questions: What is the cost if a customer wants a FAX line? Is called ID included? How many phone numbers are allowed?

Sheila reported receiving a reply from Jim Drawe to her question about who is responsible for pole attachment fees. Jim said it would be handled by Wired West once we're operational; meanwhile, it's a construction cost that Heath has to cover. Sheila relayed that message to Hilma to process for payment the Verizon pole attachment invoice previously approved by the MLPAC.

Sheila made a motion to adjourn at 12:07 pm. Margo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf