

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Meeting  
September 29, 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 the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Margo made a motion to approve the September 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Sheila seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Members read the minutes of the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting with WG&E. Sheila made a motion to approve the September 11<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended. Jan seconded the motion. Sheila made a motion to approve the minutes of the 9:30 am meeting on September 22 as amended. Margo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Members noted on September 29 that one TriWire crew was working on 8A South and another on the Dell Road. In each case there was a police detail. The MLPAC did not recommend a police detail for work on Dell Road. The cost of 2 police details for 8 hours each is \$800. The \$50/hr rate was approved by a vote of the Select Board. Margo said that rate is competitive. Members expressed interest in knowing what happened with regard to police detail in Cummington where TriWire previously worked, and where the Police Chief who is also on the broadband committee said he was not planning on police detail for most of their project. There was concern that the list of roads given to the Police Chief and TriWire does not provide sufficient detail. Art said that we may have to specify curves where a detail might be needed. There was a question about minimum call out time for detail. Art said that the MLP Manager and John need to work together. The MLP Manager needs the authority to act quickly.

The committee made a list of sites for lawn signs that included Heath Center, the bottom of Burrington Hill, the Dell, Number 9 Road by Groll Road, Mohawk Estates on Taylor Brook Road, Colrain Stage Road, 8A from Vermont, 8A by McCutchens', and Adamsville Road by the Crowningshields. Jan will include a digital image of the sign in the order for 12 to be sent to Jim Drawe.

Sheila sent Jim Drawe an email Sunday about paying for the postcards but has not received a reply. She will resend. We will ask Jenny Hamilton to put information about the launch in the ME newsletter. The 'Herald' has received the launch information. Ned will contact Laura about adding to the Heath FAQ's on the Whip City Fiber website the question "When is the deadline for signing up to be eligible for the drop credit?" with the corresponding answer "January 1, 2021 to be eligible for the drop credit in the initial sign up period".

Sheila said that she sent an email to Rich saying that their website hasn't made changes to street names. Also, it hasn't changed 911 numbers on 8A. Rich has replied that they still need the old addresses until they know how the other data will be affected. He has said that now that they have the ME list they can review it and make a recommendation on the extent of

changes to the back data on the website. Sheila suggested we provide a Tip Sheet for entering one's address on the website. Ned will contact Laura about making the Tip Sheet available to people wanting to sign up. Also, we will ask Ken to provide an updated list of 911 numbers.

Toward the end of the meeting Sheila received and read to members an email from Robyn regarding police details that provided information the MLPAC was not aware of. Robyn distinguished between the stationary detail on 8A and the rolling detail on Dell Road.

Members considered the 12 drops whose estimated costs will exceed \$3000 and decided who would contact each of them:

- Town of Heath/done
- Johnson, Armstrong, Cornish/Sheila
- Ryack, Charow, Godek, Steele-McCutchen/Jan
- Daniel Clark/Margo
- Tim Lively/Ned
- Peterson, Conlan, Hessebart/Perry/Art

In our contacts we will offer information that Jan has received from Jason Niles about the services of Berkshire Bank. We will say that when they go to the website signing up demonstrates interest. It is not a commitment to pay. That would come later. We will tell them the work schedule for FSA's is a guide in estimating when they would receive the first bill. That bill will include the amount they will need to pay beyond the drop credit, the \$99 installation fee, a possible charge for a portion of the previous month, and the charge for the coming month.

Sheila reported an email from John Leary of WG&E. Each town has a choice of a 3 year or 5 year contract with the Axia - KCST circuit for broadband service. Axia is the operator of MBI's fiber network in western Mass. John says that most towns have gone with a 3 year contract. Sheila sent a question to Jim Drawe on September 28 asking who pays the invoice. Art said that since it's a cost to the town, Wired West might handle it. Sheila said that if it's a contract it needs to go to the Select Board.

WG&E has replied to an email from Sheila by saying that they have not yet put ME addresses in their database.

Ned will send Laura 'Tips for Entering your Address'. They include

1. Start with your street number and wait as all addresses in the database with that number appear. If you see yours, click on it.
2. If you don't see yours, try your old 911 number.

Jan made a motion to adjourn at 12:34 pm. Ned seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf