

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Meeting
November 24, 2020 at 11 am

Present: MLPAC: Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, and Ned Wolf;
MLP Manager: Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11:01.

Members read the edited minutes of the 11 am MLPAC meeting on November 10. Jan moved that the minutes be approved. Ned seconded the motion. Members voted in favor.

Members read the edited minutes of the 1 pm MLPAC meeting on November 10 with Bill Ennen. Ned moved that the minutes be approved. Art seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Members read the edited minutes of the 2 pm meeting on November 10 of the MLPAC, WG&E and TriWire. Ned moved that the minutes be approved. Art seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Members read the edited minutes of the 11 am MLPAC meeting on November 17. Jan moved that the minutes be approved. Art seconded the motion. Members voted in favor. Members read the edited minutes of the 2 pm meeting of the MLPAC, WG&E, and TriWire. Jan moved that the minutes be approved. Ned seconded the motion. Members voted in favor.

Sheila reported that the application for state funds following make-ready has been accepted. We are waiting for the paperwork to be completed. On December 2 Jeff, Tim, Hilma, and Sheila will meet concerning the requirements of the hut for monitoring. Which requirements are covered by the existing protocol with Detecto-Guard? The hut comes with sensors. Will a WiredWest contract be needed in addition? Should the propane tank just be added to the automatic fill list? How long would a full tank last if there were a loss of electricity? We won't know the cost of the contract with WiredWest until they have received bids from companies that do monitoring.

Sheila made available to members the draft of a flyer for prospective broadband customers. Members will review the draft.

Members discussed the meeting schedule for December. There are 5 Tuesdays. There was a consensus that if WG&E will not be meeting on December 29, we will meet on each of the 4 remaining Tuesdays. We will check on this with WG&E this afternoon.

Sheila said that she has been contacted by possible customers who received an email blast about underground work. Some people who have responded to the email have not received any reply from the company.

Members discussed how many drops a customer could have. Our drop policy doesn't say just one drop per property. We've been going by the 911 address. In some cases when there is more than one building but just one 911 number we may have to reach out to Ken to assign 911 numbers. Jan asked whether we have a copy of the state policy for reimbursing drops. Sheila sent Bill Ennen an email asking for clarification if a property owner owns two homes, would they both be eligible for reimbursement from the state? Bill replied that the numbers used to determine the reimbursement are based on the total number of drops that could be built and how many are built. The reimbursement goes to the town and not the customer.

Members discussed cold drops and their possible cost to the town. If among the drops that could be built there were 100 cold drops that pushed the total of built drops above 70%, the town would have to pay for those cold drops above 70%. We will ask WG&E what the cost is of a cold drop.

Members called attention to the approaching Planning Board meeting regarding the possibility of a Hawley owned pole for Wifi located in Heath. Heath might get financial benefit from that. Could the pole help bring high speed internet to people living in Heath beyond the reach of utility poles? Perhaps we can talk with a person at WiValley, the company that would put up the pole.

Sheila reported an invoice.

November 20	National Grid	\$319.15	people came out to look at a pole
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Jan moved to approve the invoice. Ned seconded the motion. The committee voted in favor.

Art asked how a person who visits the town's website intending to sign up for broadband can do it. Sheila said that the MLPAC's permissions are limited to broadband. Only Hilma could create a way for the person to begin at the home page and sign up for broadband.

Jan reported that 227 have signed up for broadband.

Ned moved that the meeting be adjourned at 12:54 pm. Jan seconded the motion. Members voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Ned Wolf