

Minutes of the Heath MLPAC Meeting
May 4, 2021 at 11 am

Present: MLPAC: Art Schwenger, Jan Carr, Anne Emmet, Paul Dabrody, and Ned Wolf
with Dave Gordon and Bill Fontes visiting
MLP Manager, Sheila Litchfield

Art called the meeting to order at 11:03.

Members read the minutes of the 11 am MLPAC meeting on April 27. Anne made a motion to accept the minutes. Jan seconded the motion. The motion passed. Members read the minutes of the 9 am MLPAC meeting on April 28. Jan made a motion to accept the minutes with emendations. Paul seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Sheila said that crews were testing MST's and fiber that day. The 3rd Charlemont edge case will require a decision next Tuesday as to whether Heath will pay for the construction to the 3rd house. Bill suggested that having an extra long drop might be a way to save on construction costs. Sheila reviewed the IGA agreement with Charlemont signed in March of 2020 in which it says that the 3rd house is excluded from the agreement. It says that Charlemont will cover the construction costs to #7A and to #8. It says, moreover, that these 2 places will be eligible for any drop subsidies that Charlemont offers in its drop policy. Charlemont will pay these subsidies to Heath.

In the proposal from the Charlemont broadband committee to the Charlemont Select Board, which has been signed by the Charlemont Select Board, the 3rd house is included:

1. Charlemont will not reimburse Heath for any of the construction cost to the 3rd house. (This cost is estimated by TriWire to be \$2,231.67.)
2. Charlemont will offer Heath the \$500 drop subsidy it receives from the state for this house.
3. Should Heath decide to offer service to this location, Charlemont will work with Heath to modify the IGA to include this location. As with #7A and #8 Heath will be responsible for all costs of providing internet service and all maintenance costs. Charlemont would transfer to Heath the existing pole licenses in Charlemont for the utility poles on the path to the house.

Art reported on the April 29th visit with Jan, Dave, Bill, and Jaime to Mohawk Estates where they met Jenny. It was left that we need 911 addresses clarified. Ken's assigning 911 numbers has resolved all properties on the south side of Taylor Brook Road but not all on the north side. Ken will be away in North Carolina for 2 weeks. Bill has offered to assist Ken when he returns.

Jenny informed those present on the 29th that some places on Shawnee, Sioux, and Wigwam do not have electricity. These places would not be eligible for drops according to Heath's drop policy. Some of these places could be within our census block for CAFII. We are interested in learning whether this could affect our CAFII situation and will bring it up with Bill Ennen at 1 today.

A new possibility suggested on the April 29th visit to Mohawk Estates was a hybrid: broadband to a stub-pole and wireless to the trailer. This would avoid drilling a hole in the side of the trailer and possibly

voiding its warranty. It would require having both a hardened ONT and a hardened router on the stub-pole. Bill said that one can't have Ooma phone with wireless. Dave said it will be at least a week before we have a proposal from Jaime.

Those who insist on having a cable into the trailer will have to pay for having a Cat 6 cable from the stub-pole into the trailer. The extra cost of hardened components on the stub-pole would be covered by the town.

Members discussed how the soon-to-be-formed MLB would keep track of broadband developments for Mohawk Estates. We will tell WG&E and Jenny that the MLB is included in all emails.

Bill said that Jenny speaks of an 80 - 85 percent subscription rate. Margo expected about 125 subscriptions. Sheila said that thanks to the generous reconnect policy we'll be able to "package" the FSA 4 offer nicely. She also noted what a great opportunity there is to get the 911 numbers up on stakes in the ground. Dave suggested a meeting with Ken to better understand the 4 maps of Mohawk Estates and what the end result is. Jan suggested writing street addresses on Margo's map. Right now the addresses are based on the assessors' map. Sheila said that we should get to WG&E what they need for their design.

Sheila listed the following invoices:

Lee Lively (Police Department)	\$800.
Osterman (hut)	168.72
National Grid	320.91

Jan made a motion to approve the above invoices. Anne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

In addition there is the following invoice from WG&E for MBI that Sheila is seeking more information about.

MBI	Feb	2021	\$18,356.29
MBI	Mar	2021	1,150.00

Sheila said that according to Jim Drawe we have to pay this. Once we're operational all MBI bills come through Wired West.

Jim has sent Sheila a membership form for Dig Safe. The incentive for filling it out is that if the Wired West towns all do it together, there will be a saving in dollars. Sheila will wait for a week before submitting the form.

Art spoke of the report for the Annual Town Meeting May 8th. He has received some edits from Dave. Jan will send him her edits. Sheila said that we will need Wired West's language for the change in the connect/disconnect policy before we can change our drop policy.

Art will post the first MLB meeting for 11 am on Tuesday, May 11. Anne reported a spray painted white arrow on the road past their house. It's pointing towards a flag at their house. Sheila said it puts them in line for underground work. We need to check on how Whip City Fiber is improving its customer call back.

Anne made a motion to adjourn at 12:50. Paul seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf