

Minutes of the Meeting of the Heath MLPAC with Bill Ennen
May 4, 2021 at 1 pm

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

Sheila told Bill of a matter related to the census block that is used in determining the CAFII funds we receive. Within that census block are 3 streets in Mohawk Estates on which there are places with no electrical power. Bill said that the applicant for CAFII, WG&E, will have to find a process for excluding these. He said he will contact Rich Carnall.

Sheila informed Bill of our having begun a walkthrough of Mohawk Estates with WG&E. She added that the connect/disconnect policy of WiredWest has been revised. We are planning a marketing campaign. Using 205 for the possible number of subscribers in Mohawk Estates, we now have a subscription rate of 75.5% overall. The rates are 83%, 92%, and 89% for the FSA's 1, 2, and 3.

Sheila told Bill of having received an invoice from WG&E for \$19,506.29 for MBI backhaul. There also appeared on the bill \$3,000 we had already paid. We know that once we're operational backhaul costs come out of income. Sheila asked how much would be the monthly charge and when would it begin. Bill said it sounds like a billing error, and he will look into it.

The Proposed 180' Monopole in Heath

Bill said that he had been under no expectation that 5G would come to Heath any time soon. He was surprised to hear recently that during the April 29th pole hearing the lawyer representing AT&T allowed that 5G might sometime be on the pole. Bill said he still does not believe that genuine 5G will be on the pole. Jan noted that FirstNet has plans for monopoles in Colrain, Williamstown, and possibly other sites in the area. Bill said that if 5G is a market disrupter in Heath, it will also be a disrupter in a wide swath.

Jan said that David Kulp, MLP Manager in Ashfield, has said they're not concerned because what's going to be in Ashfield is 4G.

Bill said that the owner of the pole down the road will not be AT&T, and that's a concern for Heath Broadband. He said that Rich Carnall says that none of the big companies ends up owning the pole. At this time Bill cannot think of a WISP on any pole in this region. Any threat to Heath Broadband would be in the long term, not the near term.

Jan said that the expected coverage in Heath is not much and that our fire and police use radio, not cellular.

Members discussed the dates of coming conference calls with Bill. They will be as follows:

June 1 at 1 pm

June 29 at 1 pm (This will be our July call.)

Bill informed Jan that John Gold of Adam Hinds' office is trying to determine how the American Rescue Act applies to debt service.

Bill said that last month in a conference call the Lieutenant Governor pressed TriWire for a greater effort in the splicing and testing parts of the construction. There are not that many splicing and testing resources available in the Northeast. Bill commended Joe Parda for his keeping things moving despite the recurring delays. He urged us to speak out when we see times of inactivity or a departure from schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 1:49.

Respectfully submitted,

Ned Wolf