

MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the

Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation Board of Directors

and the

Massachusetts Broadband Institute Board of Directors

March 17, 2021

Proposed Motion – MassTech Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech”) hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred Twenty First Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation held on March 17, 2021 by Zoom video conference as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, as the formal Minutes thereof as to the sections of said minutes within the purview of the MassTech Board of Directors.

MINUTES

Joint Meeting of the

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FIRST MEETING

of the

BOARD of DIRECTORS

of the

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

and the

SIXTY EIGHTH MEETING

of the

BOARD of DIRECTORS

of the

MASSACHUSETTS BROADBAND INSTITUTE

March 17, 2021

Zoom Videoconference

The joint meeting of the One Hundred Twenty First Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech”) and the Sixty Eighth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (“MBI”) was held on March 17, 2021, via Zoom video conference, pursuant to notice duly given to the Directors of each Board and publicly posted on the MassTech website with corresponding notice provided to the Office of the Secretary of State and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

The following MassTech Directors were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Michael Kennealy (represented by Damon Cox of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Alexandra Drane, Christina Royal, Julie Chen, Pam Reeve, Rupa Cornell, Albion Calaj, Alok Tayi, Bogdan Vernescu, Ernesto DiGiambattista, George Anderson, Jay Desai, Joe Dorant, Nate Walton, Paige Fetzer, Secretary of Executive Office for Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan (represented by Patrick Lynch of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance), Richard Lester, and Carlos E. Santiago (represented by Tye Brady of Amazon Robotics).

The following members of the MBI Board of Directors were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Michael Kennealy (represented by Peter Larkin of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), David Clark, Frederick Keator, Linda Dunlavy, Secretary of Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan (represented by Sean Cronin of the Division of Local Services), Commissioner of Telecommunications and Cable Karen Charles Peterson, Carolyn Kirk, and Don Dubendorf (joined at 2:30 p.m.).

The following Mass Tech Collaborative staff was present: Carolyn Kirk, Brianna Wehrs, Lisa Erlandson, Michael Baldino, Brian Noyes, Cassidy Ferguson, Cornell Robinson, Cynthia Gaines, Holly Lucas Murphy, James Byrnes, Jennifer Saubermann, Joseph Downing, Kelly Kleanthous, Megan Marszalek, Pat Larkin, Stephanie Helm, Will Fuqua, Natalie Camacho, and Laurance Stuntz.

The following individuals attended the meeting: Joe Tiernan, Department of Telecommunications and Cable.

Mr. Cox called the meeting of the MassTech Board of Directors to order at 2:03 p.m. He then conducted an attendance by roll call and observed the presence of a quorum.

Mr. Peter Larkin called the meeting of the MBI Board of Directors to order at 2:05. He conducted an attendance by roll call and observed the presence of a quorum.

Agenda Item I Approval of MassTech and MBI Joint Minutes

Mr. Cox took a roll call vote of the MassTech Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously by a roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the One Hundred Twentieth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation held on December 9, 2020 by Zoom video conference as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, as the formal Minutes thereof as to the sections of said minutes within the

purview of the MassTech Board of Directors.

Mr. Lester joined the meeting at 2:07 p.m. and Ms. Cornell joined the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Mr. Peter Larkin took a roll call vote of the MBI Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously by a roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the Sixty Seventh Meeting of the MBI Board of Directors held on December 9, 2020 by Zoom video conference as a joint meeting with the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, as the formal Minutes thereof as to the sections of said Minutes that relate to matters within the purview of the MBI Board of Directors.

Agenda Item II Approval of MBI and Executive Committee Joint Minutes

Mr. Peter Larkin took a roll call vote of the MBI Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously by a roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the Sixty Sixth Meeting of the Board of Directors held on November 18, 2020 by Zoom video conference as a joint meeting with the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, as the formal Minutes thereof as to the sections of said Minutes that relate to matters within the purview of the MBI Board of Directors.

Agenda Item III Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board Chair

Mr. Cox waived the Chair report, stating the information would be covered in the Executive Director's report and the other presentations.

**Agenda Item IV Report of the Mass Broadband Institute Board Chair –
Broadband Economic Recovery Programs Update**

Mr. Peter Larkin proceeded to provide an MBI update. Mr. Peter Larkin explained that MBI is implementing internet access programs under the Baker Administration's Economic Recovery Plan that was announced in October 2020, programs which include Mass Internet Connect, the Last Mile Community WiFi Hotspot Program, and Gateway City Community WiFi Hotspot Program. Mr. Peter Larkin noted that MBI is now

examining the impact of the FCC’s Emergency Broadband Benefit Program and other federal initiatives, and plans on expanding MBI’s economic recovery program offerings.

Mr. Peter Larkin then briefly discussed the MBI economic recovery programs, beginning with the Mass Internet Connect Program. He indicated that MBI has formed partnerships with MassHire and providers such as Comcast, Verizon and Spectrum to reach unemployed job seekers that have a technology barrier, including access to the Internet, access to a device, and/or access to digital literary tools and resources. Mr. Peter Larkin emphasized that digital literacy is a significant challenge and barrier to internet adoption. He noted that 662 Massachusetts unemployed job seekers have been supported so far through Mass Internet Connect.

Regarding the Last Mile Community WiFi Hotspot Program, Mr. Peter Larkin said that MBI launched the program in April 2020 as an initial response to the COVID-19 pandemic by offering outdoor hotspots to Last Mile Towns without a completed broadband project and indicated that MBI has extended support for those outdoor community WiFi hotspots through June 30, 2021. Currently 23 outdoor hotspots are active and three Last Mile Towns have an indoor hotspot. Mr. Peter Larkin then stated MBI has also launched a program that focuses on Gateway Cities, and is partnering with regional planning agencies and other organizations, including community foundations. The initial RFP to private providers resulted in a grant award to OpenCape to support 9 outdoor hotspots in four Outer Cape towns and Barnstable. The RFP was followed with a Notice of Funding Availability that offer grants directly to Gateway Cities as well as grants to support partnerships to support clusters of Gateway Cities.

Mr. Peter Larkin then discussed the status of the Last Mile Towns, stating that MBI started with 53 unserved and underserved towns. He indicated that 30 towns are now complete and fully operational (an increase of 9 towns since the last update provided to the Boards in December). Thirteen additional towns are partially operational, for a total of 43 towns with residents receiving service. Mr. Larkin said 7 more towns are currently expected to be completed by the end of Fiscal Year 2021.

Ms. Fetzer joined the meeting at 2:11 p.m. and Mr. Walton joined the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

**Agenda Item V Report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive
Director – Updates on Economic Recovery Plan and
Economic Development Bill**

Ms. Kirk stated that Governor Baker marked the one year anniversary of the start of the state of emergency by visiting one of the MassTech Manufacturing Emergency Response Team (“MERT”) companies and acknowledging their contributions to pandemic. Ms. Kirk stated that MassTech has done some great work in this arena and should be proud. In discussing a few MassTech highlights and overviews, Ms. Kirk stated that the very popular Cybersecurity Mentorship Program would be hosting a second cohort of students this spring. She also indicated that MeHI is working on awards to drive

down healthcare costs. Ms. Kirk also shared some thoughts on the return to office. She indicated that the model the Baker administration is looking at is a hybrid model, and MassTech will be taking our cues from the Administration, perhaps looking at a hoteling use of space (at least in Boston). Ms. Kirk stated that Apprenti and Mass Export Center have cancelled their license agreements, and MassTech still has a three year lease in Boston. In Westborough Ms. Kirk said she envisions organizing in team pods.

Ms. Kirk then provided an update on the transfer of MassCAN funds to the Executive Office of Education (“EOE”). She indicated that the Board previously voted to authorize MassTech to enter into an agreement with EOE to transfer all remaining funds from the MassCAN line item and assign responsibility to EOE to manage the disbursement of those funds pursuant to the requirements imposed by legislation. This agreement and transfer never occurred, as EOE said they required legislation to properly effectuate the transfer. This legislation was included in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget that was passed in January, and the language negated the need for an agreement to transfer the funds. Ms. Kirk stated that there is no Board action needed, she was just apprising them of the situation.

Agenda Item VI Mass Broadband Institute – Capital Investment in the MassBroadband 123 Middle Mile Network (motion item for both Boards)

Mr. Baldino presented a recommendation for capital investments for the MassBroadband 123 Middle Mile Network for Calendar Year 2021. He observed that this is the first time the Boards have been asked to approve capital investments in the network. He indicated that the FY21 MBI budget includes \$1,000,000 of bond funds for these anticipated expenditures and the capital expenditures are covered through MassTech/MBI’s funding agreement with EOHEd. He explained that while the current cost estimate for the proposed capital investments is approximately \$750,000, MassTech/MBI is requesting authorization for the full \$1,000,000 to account for potential increases in the final costs and to respond to any unexpected revenue generation opportunities that may arise during the year. Mr. Baldino stated that MassTech would not spend the additional funds unless there was a compelling reason to do so.

Mr. Baldino then provided context around the request, stating that the expenditure of MBI bond funds in Calendar Year 2021 was needed to replace certain network components and invest in equipment upgrades on the network. The equipment would be procured and installed in the network by the Mass Broadband 123 Network Operator, Local Linx, and would become the property of MassTech. Mr. Baldino indicated that the proposed capital expenditures had been vetted and reviewed by the Integrated Planning Team (“IPT”) on January 8, 2021 as part of the process of reviewing the Annual Plan for the network. The IPT includes a representative of the Executive Office for Technology Services and Security, who supported the proposed capital expenditures.

Mr. Baldino indicated that most of the equipment was procured eight to nine years ago and therefore would be reaching End of Support by the manufacturer or End of Life

in the coming years. He explained that Local Linx evaluates all equipment and network components across the entire network based on a variety of factors as part of the annual planning process and proposes capital investments to MassTech/MBI. Most of the current proposed capital investments involve upgrades to equipment located within Points of Interconnection (POIs) – regional hubs located strategically throughout the network footprint.

Mr. Baldino explained that the network will be upgraded in prioritized phases, focusing on the following categories: (1) upgrading the equipment that directly leads to increased revenue for the network, which is focused on POIs; (2) upgrading the core components of the network that aggregate network traffic; and (3) upgrading the network’s Juniper platform and servers before the equipment reaches End of Life. During the ensuing discussion it was clarified that the capital expenditures for disk arrays are for the purchase of servers. Mr. Baldino also clarified that the current estimates provided by Local Linx are based upon initial quotes from vendors, but Local Linx is seeking additional quotes to ensure that they purchase equipment using the ‘best value’ approach.

Mr. Dubendorf joined the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Mr. Peter Larkin took a roll call vote of the MBI Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute does hereby recommend that the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech Collaborative”) delegate to the MassTech Collaborative Executive Director the authority to expend up to a total of \$1,000,000 to reimburse Local Linx, the operator of the MassBroadband 123 network (“Network”) for costs incurred to replace or upgrade Network equipment materials or supplies pursuant to the Calendar Year 2021 capital plan for the Network, as generally presented.

Mr. Cox took a roll call vote of the MassTech Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby delegate to the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Director the authority to expend up to a total of \$1,000,000 to reimburse Local Linx, the operator of the MassBroadband 123 network (“Network”) for costs incurred to replace or upgrade Network equipment materials or supplies pursuant to the

Calendar Year 2021 capital plan for the Network, as generally presented and as recommended by the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute.

Ms. Kirk presented a high-level Thirty Month Plan describing the process that MassTech/MBI proposes to undertake to address the long-term future and disposition of the MassBroadband 123 network. She noted that the network operator agreement with Local Linx expires in August of 2023. She explained that MassTech/MBI has launched the first phase of the process that involves planning and due diligence work on the potential options, which includes staying with our existing network operator, hiring a new network operator or selling the network. The second phase involves a competitive procurement process that will result in a decision on the disposition of the network. She indicated that this approach will leave one year to transition to the new arrangement. Ms. Kirk noted that MassTech would seek to alter the deal structure with Local Linx if the decision is made to stay with them as the network operator. She emphasized that this will be a “ten year decision” with significant implications for the communities and entities that utilize the network. Ms. Kirk also emphasized the need for engagement with a broad array of stakeholders and the importance of preserving and enhancing the public benefits generated by the network. She indicated that MassTech/MBI will need specialized consulting and legal support to implement this plan, which will involve complex procurements.

The following key points emerged from the ensuing discussion: (1) MassTech/MBI needs to identify “lessons learned” to date from the operation of the network; (2) If MassTech/MBI retains ownership of the network, Board members want to know about the challenges of enhancing public benefits through the network in an affordable manner; (3) Pricing offered for network services should be reviewed and evaluated; (4) Board members acknowledged that this process will require a significant level of effort and were supportive of adding a project manager to the MBI staff; (5) Staff was requested to explore with the federal government any repayment obligations that would be triggered by the sale of the network; and (6) the implications of American Rescue Plan funding sources should be explored at the appropriate time.

There being no other business to discuss by the MBI Board of Directors and upon motion duly made and seconded, the MBI Board of Directors voted unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote to adjourn the MBI portion of the meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Agenda Item VII Innovation Institute – FinTech Sponsorship Award to Launch Mass FinTech Hub (motion item for Mass Tech Collaborative Board)

Mr. Pat Larkin introduced the Innovation Institute request for approval of a \$25,000 sponsorship award to support the launch of the Mass FinTech Hub. Mr. Larkin stated that this project was started two years ago, when MassTech conducted its vertical

study and found that FinTech was a growing priority sector. Mr. Larkin indicated that MassTech is now in an important position to be able to pivot the FinTech Working Group into a Hub for the FinTech cluster. Mr. Larkin noted that FinTech is one of the most promising emerging technologies to further grow the state's innovation economy, and the Baker-Polito Administration named FinTech as a key sector in its 2019 Economic Development Plan and 2020 Economic Development Bill. Mr. Larkin indicated that the initial FinTech Working Group, chaired by Secretary Kennealy, has gone from a planning phase to what they now view as a building phase, where they are looking to partner with local non-profits to help move this project along. Mr. Larkin stated that today's sponsorship will contribute generally to the overall startup of the Mass FinTech Hub. MassTech and the Innovation Institute are leading by example through this sponsorship. There many enthusiastic people working on this project, and there have been contributions from financial institutions and universities, which point to revenue streams that could make this permanent.

Mr. Cox took a roll call vote of the MassTech Board of Directors.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was VOTED unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize a sponsorship award from Fiscal Year 2021 Innovation Institute Funds (line item 7002-0032) in an amount not to exceed \$25,000 to support the launch of the Mass FinTech Hub, as presented. The sponsorship award is subject to the execution of a sponsorship agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.

There being no other business to discuss and upon motion duly made and seconded, the MassTech Board of Directors voted unanimously and without abstention by a roll call vote to adjourn the meeting at 3:31 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:

1. Draft Minutes for the December 9, 2020, joint MassTech and MBI Board of Directors Meeting
2. Draft Minutes for the November 18, 2020, joint MBI Board of Directors and Executive Committee Meeting
3. Presentation - MBI Update
4. Presentation - Updates on Economic Recovery Plan and Economic Development Bill

5. Approval Item / Presentation - Capital Investment in the MassBroadband 123 Middle Mile Network
6. Approval Item/Presentation - FinTech Sponsorship Award to Launch Mass FinTech Hub