The Two Hundred and Fifty Third Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”) was held on November 15, 2017, at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, Two Center Plaza, Suite 200, Boston Massachusetts, pursuant to notice duly given to the Directors and publicly posted on the Mass Tech Collaborative website with corresponding notice provided to the Office of the Secretary of State.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development (Jay Ash (represented by Carolyn Kirk of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Alexandra Drane (arrived at 1:22 p.m.), Annmarie Levins (participated by phone due to geographic distance), Ann Margulies and Pam Reeve.

The following additional Mass Tech Collaborative Directors attended the meeting: Julie Chen, Commissioner of the Department of Higher Education Carlos Santiago (represented by Tye Brady of Amazon Robotics) and Alok Tayi.

The following Mass Tech Collaborative staff was present: Michael Baldino, Tim Connelly, Ed Donnelly, Philip Holahan, Pat Larkin, Laurance Stuntz and Maeghan Welford.

The following individuals attended the meeting: Chris Lynch, Matrix Design Group.

Due to the lack of a quorum, informal updates were provided at 1:02 p.m.

Ms. Kirk discussed the Commonwealth of Massachusetts’ proposal to Amazon to locate Amazon’s second headquarters in the state. She discussed the extensive effort and collaboration that went into the development of the application to Amazon. She noted
that numerous communities within the state submitted applications to directly to Amazon and she noted that the overarching Massachusetts proposal referenced elements of the community proposals. Ms. Kirk indicated that Massachusetts is very serious about landing Amazon’s second headquarters and she indicated that the process of responding to Amazon’s RFP has generated tangible benefits, including the highlighting of local and regional assets and strengths. She also discussed next steps with regard to Amazon. Mr. Connelly noted that the Mass Tech Collaborative played a prominent role in the development of the Massachusetts application.

At the conclusion of Ms. Kirk’s remarks, Mr. Connelly mentioned that the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (“MBI”) has made significant strides and that most of the unserved towns now have a path forward to broadband connectivity. He indicated that a more detailed update will be provided later in the meeting. Mr. Connelly also briefly addressed the following matters: (1) the Mass Tech Collaborative will house a cybersecurity center, which will serve to advance one of Governor Baker’s “top of the house” economic development priorities; (2) the Mass Tech Collaborative received a clean annual audit from RSM; (3) progress continues to be made in reducing the organization’s run rate and improving productivity, including reductions in the size of the staff and moving more employees to the “point of the spear”; and (4) concerns persist about long term financial sustainability of the organization and the need to generate new sources of revenue was emphasized.

Ms. Kirk discussed the state budget situation and the down turn in state revenues. Ms. Kirk and Mr. Connelly noted that other quasi-public agencies are also facing financial challenges and Mr. Connelly indicated that the Long Range Planning Committee will need to play a role in developing an appropriate plan. Mr. Larkin indicated that the work of the Long Range Planning Committee will transition to convening smaller focus groups. He noted that the diversion of staff resources to cybersecurity has slowed the long range planning work.

After the arrival of Ms. Drane at 1:22 p.m., Ms. Kirk observed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order. Ms. Kirk reviewed the legal requirements governing public participation at an open meeting of a public body. She stated that: (1) After notifying the Chair, any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting of a public body, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the Chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. At the beginning of the meeting the Chair shall inform other attendees of any recordings. (2) No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the Chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the Chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the Chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the Chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the Chair may authorize a constable or other officer to remove the person from the meeting. No recordings were made of the meeting.
Agenda Item I Approval of Minutes

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED:

The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation, acting on behalf of the full Board pursuant to section three of Chapter Forty J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the open session of the Two Hundred Fifty Second Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on September 28, 2017, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the formal Minutes thereof.

Agenda Item II Action Items and Discussion Topics

The reports of the Chair and the Executive Director were deferred in light of the informal discussion that occurred earlier. Ms. Kirk and Mr. Donnelly provided an update on MBI activities and financing. Ms. Kirk reviewed the status of MBI funding allocations and commitments for unserved towns in western Massachusetts that are pursuing a private provider solution, such as Comcast or Charter, as well as towns that are pursuing the development of a municipally-owned broadband network. She also discussed the status of the remaining ten towns that are still exploring options for broadband connectivity. She noted that $7.57 million in grant funds has been allocated for these remaining ten towns.

Ms. Kirk reminded the Executive Committee that the Last Mile Infrastructure Grant Program managed by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (“EOHED”) is providing grants to towns that are pursuing a municipally-owned broadband network and requires the participating towns to absorb a significant share of the capital costs. She indicated that towns participating in EOHED’s grant program may still switch to a private provider option, although any funds expended under the EOHED grant would not be available to support a private provider solution.

Mr. Donnelly discussed the rollout of the Flexible Grant Program, which was launched in October to provide the second round of grant funding for private provider broadband solutions. He mentioned that MBI is reengaging with towns and asking towns to affirmatively opt in and indicate their willingness to consider private provider proposals. Ms. Kirk noted that there remains a funding gap and indicated optimism that legislation would be passed to appropriate funds for the “extra mile” that would close the projected funding gap of $8 million. She also indicated that EOHED is seeking funding to establish a contingency fund to cover make ready cost overruns for towns that are building a municipally-owned network. Ms. Kirk noted that funding is also being sought to continue support for MBI’s work in overseeing the MassBroadband 123 middle mile network and to commencement planning work on “MBI 2.0” to address any remaining broadband gaps that may require state support. Mr. Donnelly clarified that Massachusetts is not well suited to benefit from federal CAF II funding as a general matter.
Mr. Larkin provided an update on cybersecurity activities. He noted that a cybersecurity ecosystem leadership group had been convened earlier in the day and provided input on a go forward strategy, which was informed by the Mass Tech Collaborative’s engagement with an advisory group over the past eighteen months. He mentioned that the leadership group coalesced around the important of a cybersecurity center to be located at the Mass Tech Collaborative. Mr. Larkin indicated that the Mass Tech Collaborative will hire a director to run the center, which follows the successful model that was established for advanced manufacturing, which is being led by Ira Moskowitz. Mr. Larkin discussed other key takeaways from the Cybersecurity Ecosystem Leadership Group meeting.

Mr. Larkin led a discussion about the cybersecurity vision, mission and framework that would focus on three elements – talent, leadership and the ecosystem. Ms. Drane observed that the needs of consumers, “have nots” and victims of cyber-crimes need to be considered and addressed, particularly since these constituencies often do not have a seat at the table. Mr. Larkin concurred and he and Ms. Kirk mentioned consumer education opportunities. Ms. Margulies noted that Massachusetts could become a leader in ensuring the integrity of our voting systems. The value of hackathons as a source of learning was also discussed. The Mass Tech Collaborative was urged to think creatively about how to identify talent that can fill the 8,000 cybersecurity-related job openings that currently exist. Mr. Larkin noted that companies are poaching each other’s workforce.

At the conclusion of the cybersecurity discussion, Ms. Welford and Mr. Stuntz provided a brief update on the work of the Digital Health Council. Ms. Kirk then requested that the Executive Committee convene in executive session to discuss litigation strategy. Ms. Kirk, in her capacity as Chairperson, stated that she would call for a roll call vote of the Executive Committee to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to matters involving ongoing disputes in which the Mass Tech Collaborative is currently involved. She stated that the purpose for meeting in executive session to discuss these matters is that discussion of the Mass Tech Collaborative’s strategy with respect to these matters in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the Mass Tech Collaborative.

A roll call vote was taken to go into executive session. Ms. Kirk, Ms. Levins, Ms. Margulies and Ms. Reeve voted in the affirmative to enter into executive session. All staff that was not needed for the litigation strategy discussion and members of the public left the room.

The meeting proceeded in executive session at 2:41 p.m. The proceedings that occurred in executive session are addressed in a separate set of meeting minutes.

Ms. Kirk, in consultation with the members of the Executive Committee, determined that the executive session should conclude at 2:59 p.m. At that point the meeting proceeded in open session.
There being no other business to discuss and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

A TRUE COPY
ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:
1. Draft Minutes – Open Session of the September 28, 2017 Executive Committee meeting
2. Presentation – Massachusetts Cybersecurity Ecosystem
3. Presentation – MBI Update: Program Financials
4. Handouts – Mass Tech Collaborative Funding and Run Rate Analysis