MINUTES

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH MEETING

of the

BOARD of DIRECTORS

of the

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

April 23, 2019
Boston, Massachusetts

The One Hundred Sixteenth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech”) was held on April 23, 2019, at Suite 200, Two Center Plaza, 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 Directors were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash (represented by Damon Cox of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Carla Brodley, Albion Calaj, Julie Chen, Rupa Cornell, Joe Dorant, Alexandra Drane, Paige Fetzer, Secretary for Administration and Finance Michael Heffernan (represented by Patrick Lynch of the Executive Office for Administration and Finance), Anne Margulies, Pam Reeve, Christina Royal, Carlos Santiago (represented by Tye Brady of Amazon Robotics) and Alok Tayi.

The following Mass Tech Collaborative staff was present: Michael Baldino, James Byrnes, Lisa Erlandson, Stephanie Helm Carolyn Kirk, Kelly Kleanthous, Pat Larkin, Ira Moskowitz Holly Lucas Murphy, Brian Noyes, Jennifer Saubermann and Laurance Stuntz.

The following individuals attended the meeting: Michael Kennealy, Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

Mr. Cox observed the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Agenda Item I Approval of Minutes

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon motions duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED:
The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the open session of the One Hundred Fifteenth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation held on October 15, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the formal Minutes thereof.

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation hereby adopts the Draft Minutes of the executive session of the One Hundred Fifteenth Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation held on October 15, 2018, in Boston, Massachusetts, as the formal Minutes thereof.

Agenda Item II Report of the Chairperson

Mr. Cox delivered the report of the Chairperson. He noted that this is Carolyn Kirk’s first Board of Directors meeting since being appointed as MassTech’s Executive Director. He mentioned that he is now chairing the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center Board of Directors and indicated that he would like to see more collaboration between MassTech and Life Sciences Center. Mr. Cox also discussed the Emerging Tech Sector Study and the latest developments with MBI, the MassCyberCenter and the Massachusetts eHealth Institute.

Agenda Item III Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Kirk delivered the report of the Executive Director. She indicated that she has been serving as MassTech’s Executive Director on a full time basis for approximately seven weeks. She expressed her gratitude to the Board of Directors for their confidence in her. Ms. Kirk indicated that she was very pleased with MassTech’s staff. She provided updates on significant personnel changes – the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (“MBI”) Board of Directors appointed Michael Baldino as MBI Director at a meeting held in Worthington on April 12; and Jennifer Saubermann is serving as Acting General Counsel and will continue to handle intragovernmental relations. She congratulated Ms. Saubermann for being selected as President of the Women’s Bar Association.

Ms. Kirk noted that MassTech is engaging in settlement discussions with G4S over the parties’ respective claims and has engaged new outside counsel to represent MassTech in this matter. She also informed the Board of Directors that KCST is still going through bankruptcy proceedings and that MassTech continues to take action to protect its interest in bankruptcy court.

Ms. Kirk discussed her approach to revamping and bolstering communications, outreach, and the visibility and recognition of MassTech’s work. She commended Mr. Noyes for the quality of his work as MassTech’s Director of Communications. Ms. Kirk indicated that while there are instances, such as a recent STEM summit, where it would have been beneficial to promote MassTech’s work, there are many instances such as the
upcoming event at WPI’s PracticePoint with Governor Baker that highlight the impact of MassTech’s digital health activities. She observed that this event represents the convergence of MassTech’s investments with the value of its ongoing involvement in a project and the services provided by MassTech.

Agenda Item IV Discussion Items

Mr. Cox introduced Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy and then asked that each of the Directors and MassTech staff in attendance introduce themselves and mention an innovative project that they are working on. During Secretary Kennealy’s remarks to the Board of Directors he highlighted the importance of breaking down silos and ensuring that innovation is a core component of our economic development strategy. Secretary expressed his support for MassTech and the leadership being exercised by Ms. Kirk and the Board of Directors. Secretary Kennealy discussed industry sectors that are of critical importance to the Baker-Polito Administration, such a digital health, and the need to develop strategies to advance sectors, such as robotics, where the Commonwealth can be a national leader. Secretary Kennealy concluding his remarks by stating that he looks forward to future collaborations with MassTech.

After Secretary Kennealy’s departure, Ms. Kirk indicated that it is important to have the contributions of Board members to MassTech’s success recognized by members of the Baker-Polito Administration. She informed the Board of Directors that MBI will receive full funding for Fiscal Year 2020, another indicator of the confidence that the Baker-Polito Administration has in MassTech.

Ms. Kirk and Mr. Baldino presented a recommendation to approve a Flexible Grant Program award to Comcast to provide broadband service for the Town of Middlefield. Ms. Kirk provided context for the proposed award, which included an overview of the tapestry of last mile broadband solutions for the unserved towns, which includes municipally owned broadband networks as well as projects, such as this one, where a cable company will build, own and operate the network that will serve the town. She noted that there are three towns left that need to finalize a solution – Sandisfield, Tolland New Braintree. In response to a question from Ms. Margulies, Ms. Kirk described the impact of broadband access in the unserved towns, which include increased real estate values, access to telemedicine and the elimination of educational barriers. Ms. Drane suggested that a future Board of Directors meeting should be held in western Massachusetts with a video link back to Boston.

Mr. Baldino presented the key elements of the proposal that Comcast submitted to MBI. He clarified that Comcast would provide coverage of at least 96% of residential premises in Middlefield contingent on (1) premises being accessible by existing utility pole lines or underground conduit located within the town’s borders; and (2) Comcast’s ability to obtain easements or necessary permits from property owner(s). Mr. Baldino responded to a question from Mr. Brady and acknowledged that some people could criticize MBI for providing grant funds to large cable companies. Mr. Baldino noted, however, that unserved towns do not otherwise have the population density necessary to
make it financially viable for a private provider to build and operate a network. Mr. Baldino also mentioned that Comcast is assuming the risk of construction cost overruns and all of the downstream operational risk. There was broad agreement that MBI should celebrate the progress that is being made and should share lessons learned with other states.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech”) does hereby authorize the MassTech Executive Director to execute a grant agreement with Comcast for an award under the Flexible Grant Program Notice of Funding Availability for Innovative Approaches to Provide Broadband Service to Unserved Towns in Western Massachusetts (NOFA No. 2018-MBI-01) and to expend funds in accordance with the following conditions and parameters, as recommended by the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute:

1. A grant award to Comcast that shall not exceed $1,007,680 for a privately owned and operated broadband network that shall provide access to broadband service to the Town of Middlefield (“Town”) and shall consist of two components:
   • Up to $545,000 which represents the remaining amount of the MBI allocation from the Massachusetts Broadband Incentive Fund for a last mile broadband solution for the Town; and
   • Up to $462,680 in additional state bond funds to be provided by the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (“Supplemental Funding”)

2. The final amount of the grant award shall be subject to the review and approval of the Secretary of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development.

3. The expenditure of grant funds pursuant to this award shall be contingent upon satisfaction of the following conditions:
   • Execution of an agreement between the Commonwealth (currently anticipated to be represented by EOHED) and the Town relative to the obligation of the Town to repay fifty percent of the Supplemental Funding amount to the Commonwealth; and
   • Execution of a cable television license agreement by Comcast and the Town.

Mr. Larkin presented a recommendation to approve a $200,000 grant award to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute (“WHOI”) to support access for early stage marine technology companies to access WHOI’s facilities and technical and engineering
services. Mr. Larkin discussed the background, WHOI’s economic impact on the region and clarified that this award will be funded through a legislative appropriation earmark. He explained how small and medium sized enterprises will access and benefit from the expertise that resides in WHOI’s Center for Marine Robotics (which was developed with grant support from MassTech’s Innovation Institute). Mr. Larkin also explained how the grant funds will be expended by WHOI to offset operational costs.

During the ensuing discussion, Mr. Larkin responded to a question from Ms. Cornell and clarified that this grant would be a one-time investment that is expected to bolster the financial sustainability of the Center for Marine Robotics. Ms. Drane urged MassTech to create videos of the stories of entrepreneurs that use this facility. Mr. Brady observed that WHOI is the preeminent world leader in underwater robotics. Ms. Brodley, Ms. Cornell and Ms. Reeve suggested that the Board of Directors should be provided with a broader context for award decisions, including better visibility into the organizational structure and programmatic objectives.

Following a period of brief discussion, and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously VOTED:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech”) does hereby authorize MassTech’s Executive Director to expend up to $200,000 for a grant award to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (“WHOI”) to support access by startup companies and small and medium-sized enterprises to access and utilize the facilities, services and technical expertise of WHOI’s Center for Marine Robotics, as generally presented. This authorization is subject to the execution by WHOI of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by the Executive Director.

Mr. Stuntz provided an overview of the Digital Health Sandbox Pilot Program that will be launched by the Massachusetts eHealth Institute. This program implements a recommendation of the Governor’s Digital Health Council. Mr. Stuntz discussed the initial digital health sandbox pilot will be launched tomorrow at WPI. It was noted that this initial pilot will leverage a prior investment by the Innovation Institute in WPI’s Practice Point. Mr. Stuntz explained that the four suites at the Practice Point that will support residential and clinical environments. He noted that future sandbox awards will be made on a rolling basis and will be informed by input from an independent steering committee. Mr. Stuntz indicated that he hopes to fund four to six projects during the next year. During the ensuing discussion Board members suggested considerations for selecting sandboxes to support in the future.

There being no other business 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 for the Open Session of the October 15, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting
2. Draft Minutes for the Executive Session of the October 15, 2018 Board of Directors Meeting
3. Presentation/Approval Item – Flexible Grant Program Award to Comcast for the Town of Middlefield
4. Presentation/Approval Item – Grant Award to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution
5. Presentation – Digital Health Sandbox Pilot Program