

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting

April 14, 2021

Proposed Motion

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 Two Hundred and Seventieth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on April 14, 2021, by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.

MINUTES

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIRST MEETING

of the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

April 14, 2021

Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred Seventy First Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”) was held on April 14, 2021, via Zoom videoconference 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 and the Executive Office for Administration and Finance.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee were present and participated: Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Mike Kennealy (represented by Damon Cox of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Pam Reeve, Rupa Cornell, Julie Chen, and Christina Royal.

The following member of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board of Directors was present and participated: Michael Greeley.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Holly Lucas Murphy, Brianna Wehrs, Pat Larkin, Stephanie Helm, Jennifer Saubermann, Lisa Erlandson, Brian Noyes, Laurance Stuntz, Christine Nolan, Michael Baldino, Will Fuqua, Megan Marszalek, Joseph Downing, Natalie Camacho and Kelly Kleanthous.

The following members of the public were present: Chip Bull.

Mr. Cox did a roll call of attendance for the Mass Tech Executive Committee, observed the presence of quorum of the Executive Committee, and called the meeting of the Mass Tech Executive Committee to order at 2:02 p.m.

Agenda Item I Approval of Executive Committee Minutes

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously and without abstention VOTED by roll call:

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 Two Hundred and Seventieth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on February 3, 2021, by Zoom videoconference as the formal Minutes thereof as to the sections of said Minutes that relate to matters within the purview of the Executive Committee.

Agenda Item II Report of the Chair of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative Board of Directors

Mr. Cox delivered the report of the Mass Tech Collaborative Chairperson. He opened the meeting by discussing Secretary Kennealy's continued work with Mass Tech Collaborative initiatives, stating the Secretary continues to be deeply involved in the areas of Fintech and Advanced Manufacturing, and is proud of all the work coming out of Mass Tech. Mr. Cox indicated that Secretary Kennealy is also excited for Mass Tech Collaborative to work on more esoteric areas such as Blockchain, and believes Mass Tech is the "tip of the spear". Mr. Cox, when asked, stated he does not see Mass Tech Collaborative expanding right now, but more so continuing to focus on current areas of economic impact. During the ensuing discussion members of the Executive Committee shared their questions regarding topics of concern going forward. Ms. Royal asked about equity in the tech sector and de-gendering language, while Ms. Cornell brought up the fact that the pandemic has highlighted that Internet connectivity is a utility and not a privilege. Mr. Cox indicated he would welcome questions about such challenges in the post-COVID-19 world, and stated that EOHEd is also looking at issues of broadband equity and access that have arisen during the pandemic.

Agenda Item III Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Kirk delivered the report of the Mass Tech Executive Director. Ms. Kirk stated that Ms. Wehrs reviewed the Board Meeting minutes over the last year to identify topics of interest to the members, and two themes emerged: 1) we must do a better job telling the story of Mass Tech Collaborative's impact, and 2) Board members have consistently asked about the morale of Mass Tech employees. In response to this, the divisions will provide stories of the direct effects of their work, and Mass Tech Human Resources plans to do an anonymous employee survey and we will report the results to the Board.

Ms. Kirk then provided an update on the budget. She stated that the House Ways and Means budget was released today and, while funded in the Governor's budget, Mass Tech Collaborative did not receive any funding in the House Ways and Means version of the budget. She indicated this was not unusual with new leadership and although disappointing, it pointed to the need to better tell stories of Mass Tech's impact. Ms. Kirk stated that Mass Tech will continue to press our case and hopefully by July the budget will be finalized.

Mr. Cox indicated that a member of the public had joined at 2:05 p.m. and proceeded to remind members of the public about the procedures for recording a meeting under the Open Meeting Law.

Ms. Kirk then continued with her updates. She indicated that the intent is to begin the return-to-office plan in July, starting with department meetings. Ms. Kirk stated that productivity among employees has remained high, but she feels we are missing networking and collaboration time.

When questioned about return specifics by members of the Executive Board, Ms. Kirk said that there is a committee in place to discuss things such as temperature checks, vaccination privacy issues, and masks, and that Mass Tech Collaborative would be supporting a hybrid return policy in-line with Commonwealth guidelines. Ms. Kirk then moved on to division presentations, highlighting that “although we do not know the names of the people our work impacts we do know who they are” (a presentation format she credited to Haden Quinlan, a COVID-19 Massachusetts Emergency Response Team (MERT) volunteer).

Agenda Item IV Impact Examples Across Mass Tech Divisions

Ms. Kirk presented on the impact of the MERT. She focused on one example of the MERT’s activities: a collaboration that combined grant funding through the MERT and a partnership between AFFOA, MIT, Lincoln Labs and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, which allowed the testing of imported KN95 masks. The masks were tested at MIT and the findings led to decisions on how and where masks were deployed or held back. Ms. Kirk stated that while we don't know specific names, we do know the people who benefitted. The beneficiaries were the clinicians on the front lines who could rely on the integrity of the masks, family members and community members who may have avoided tragedy, COVID-19 patients who were recipients of healthcare because medical staff had masks that worked, and scientists serving as partners during the crisis who are now capturing the learnings for the advancement of the public good. Ms. Kirk stated that not only did this protect the public but added to existing scientific literature.

Mr. Baldino next presented on the status of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. He indicated that there is a great deal going on at the federal level with funding for broadband through the American Rescue Plan, which Mass Tech continues to monitor. Mr. Baldino discussed the challenges people faced during the pandemic due to lack of broadband access. Mass Tech Collaborative's initial response in April 2020 was to create community Wifi hotspots, an interim setup in Last Mile towns without full connectivity. Mr. Baldino stated that the people whose names we don't know but who have benefited from our Last Mile Program expanding high speed internet access in western Mass. are those such as: teachers who used the hotspots for educational “tailgating”, teaching remote classes and setting up tents in parking lots for students to take classes and do homework; high school seniors who now can tour colleges virtually, apply for financial aid and submit applications online; fire fighters and EMTs participating in online training courses during the pandemic; parents that can now pay their bills online; homeowners previously unable to sell their homes before their town received broadband access; and small stores where cash registers and data systems previously went down all the time without broadband, which now does not happen. Mr. Baldino said people are happy they can now be online, use Zoom, and view Netflix all at the same time, things people with broadband access

take for granted. He then presented a Last Mile town slide, showing 47 of 53 towns receiving service, with 14 more lighting up, and another 15 towns coming online in FY22.

Mr. Larkin then presented on the work of the Innovation Institute. Mr. Larkin used the example of the Hack.Diversity initiative at NEVCA funded by Mass Tech Collaborative. He discussed how Hack.Diversity reached out to 275 Black and LatinX individuals to focus on early career development, and help companies create more inclusive environments. Mr. Larkin said we don't know names but we know who have been impacted by this program: Black and LatinX individuals who can see a place for themselves in the dynamic tech industry, immigrants seeking new opportunities, single parents trying to build a better life for their families, people seeking new career tracks, and company management teams struggling to understand how to create diversity. Mr. Larkin then stated that this program is structured around helping people with some kind of computer science expertise outside the top elite computer science programs. He said that the Mass Tech investment allowed for over 80% placement of program participants in host companies that paid meaningful wages. Mr. Larkin then explained that Hack.Diversity is a nine month program with four fundamental pieces: 1) interview and career coaching where participants learn about cover letters, resumes, and interviews; 2) networking so they can build connections with tech professionals; 3) a hackathon where they learn critical tech and entrepreneurship skills by taking a design project from ideation to business pitch; and 4) company readiness where they find a sense of belonging and learn how they can function successfully within a company. Participants received paid internships at top Boston tech companies, providing that critical first position. Mr. Larkin then presented three examples of interns helped by the Hack.Diversity program. The Executive Committee members discussed briefly how this was great work, that it should be recognized that the companies benefit as well, and it would be beneficial if Hack.Diversity could be scaled up even more.

Ms. Helm spoke next about the work of the MassCyberCenter. She indicated that the Center has been working to help municipalities with cybersecurity, such as publishing an online cybersecurity municipality tool kit. Ms. Helm said that the MassCyberCenter is also trying to establish a sub-working group to look at additional challenges facing municipalities in the area of cybersecurity. Ms. Helm then discussed who is being helped by the work of the MassCyberCenter: communities with limited cybersecurity resources who now have a minimum baseline of cybersecurity to guide them; smaller towns without an information security officer who can now call a cyber colleague or regional expert; and the chief information officer who is now inspired to lead a regional cybersecurity working group. Ms. Helm stated that the MassCyberCenter hopes to help show communities where to start on their cybersecurity needs, starting with a minimum baseline for security. Ms. Helm explained the CyberCenter has conducted listening tours across the state, and introductions there have allowed smaller towns to meet people from larger communities they can call with questions. As a result of these listening tours, the MassCyberCenter is now working with the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (“EOTSS”) to formalize regional working groups across the state, the Massachusetts Municipal Association is now also involved, and MIT has created a regional cybersecurity clinic for municipalities. Ms. Helm stated there is still a great deal more we want to do for municipalities. When asked by members of the Executive Committee if there was any other states that have a program such as this, Ms. Helm responded she does not believe there is a

minimum baseline in any other state; some states are mandating changes, whereas Massachusetts is approaching the topic more from carrot philosophy.

Ms. Nolan, Director of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM), then presented on CAM's work and those being impacted. She indicated that it was very important for Massachusetts to be in a place to produce locally what we can, and to allow manufacturing to help people find new careers. Ms. Nolan focused her presentation on an investment made by CAM in a company called Sheumann Laser. Ms. Nolan stated that we don't know their names but we know those being helped by CAM's work are: Black, LatinX, and Asian individuals who can see a career pathway in advanced manufacturing; women engineers who were recently hired to support the photonics and semi-conductor industry; people seeking a new career in positions that provide fulfilling work and economic mobility; and the tech community which now has novel access to photonics and semiconductor manufacturing capabilities. Sheumann Laser, now located in Billerica, has reached into Gateway Cities and created pathways for entry level and diverse applicants, which allowed people to see a career in this industry. Ms. Nolan stated that Sheumann has hired many women engineers, and reached out to industries hit by COVID-19. Ms. Nolan explained that the \$2.3 million grant to Sheumann Laser came out of M2I2, and spurred additional investment from their leadership team. Ms. Nolan stated that Sheumann used the grant to purchase equipment and move their facility to Billerica. This commitment to U.S. manufacturing opened up new markets for Sheumann Laser in medical devices, quantum, and telecom. Ms. Nolan indicated that the organization saw growth right away, which led them to hire, providing them 30% employment growth, from entry level up to PhD. Ms. Nolan indicated that the CAM investment allowed Sheumann to open a clean room incubator in Billerica, which they were opening to photonic startups, showing how one investment can make a huge difference in the economy.

Mr. Stuntz then discussed the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI) and the impact of the MeHI Right Care 4 You Program. Mr. Stuntz explained that the Program, launched in late 2019, issued grants early in the pandemic. Along with efforts of the Massachusetts Employer Health Coalition, a group of organizations which joined together in an attempt to reduce healthcare costs on employers, the Right Care 4 You Program was a collaboration to test digital health solutions. Mr. Stuntz then discussed the people impacted by the Program: smokers who have tried to quit and could not, getting help with new solutions that pay them to quit; people with diabetes who need tools that help them lose weight and manage their healthcare experience; digital health entrepreneurs who can get funding and attention to prove that their solutions actually save money; employers who can find a partner willing to work with them to help their employees, and help them control cost; and all of us who need help figuring out what to do when we have health question. Mr. Stuntz explained that the challenge in digital health is to prove real outcomes, to prove to interested employers they can actually save money. Mr. Stuntz then discussed one company who received grant funding from the Right Care 4 You Program, Vincere Health. Mr. Stuntz explained that Vincere knew that smoking was a large healthcare cost for employers, accounting for approximately \$3,500 per employee per year in extra healthcare expenses, and \$6,000 per employee in total costs (including healthcare and loss of productivity). For the Right Care 4 You Program, Mr. Stuntz explained that MeHI required employers come to the table and offer to sponsor a pilot with the digital health company. Vincere Health partnered with Boston Medical Center and offered employees who enrolled in

the program a sensor app to track smoking along with small cash payments. The results were 86% program compliance, a quit rate of 62%, and high weekly engagement.

Agenda Item V Massachusetts eHealth Institute (MeHI) - EDA SPRINT Challenge Grant

Mr. Stuntz then presented on the \$682,880 U.S. Economic Development Administration Scaling Pandemic Resilience through Innovation and Technology (SPRINT) Challenge grant recently awarded to MeHI. Mr. Stuntz explained that MeHI applied for the grant right after Thanksgiving and was one of 44 winners. Mr. Stuntz stated that MeHI will partner with Lever, Inc. to run two Massachusetts Digital Health COVID-19 Recovery Challenges, with solution validation in the Sandbox Network. Challenge #1 will focus on solutions for family caregivers, and Challenge #2 will focus on solutions for healthcare providers. Mr. Stuntz explained that the grant fits squarely within the Massachusetts Caregiving Initiative at MassTech and we will be sourcing grant funds to help caregivers get back to work. Mr. Stuntz then clarified the SPRINT grant encompasses two 12 month programs, and would fund projects in the Digital Health Sandbox Network, a network of nine different university and health system-based digital health testing sandboxes across the state open to entrepreneurs to test products. Mr. Stuntz explained that MeHI will use the grant funds to offset testing costs, and the grant will allow MeHI to fund multiple projects.

There being no other business to discuss and upon motion duly made the Mass Tech Executive Committee voted by roll call vote to adjourn the Mass Tech Executive Committee meeting at 3:31 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:
(Secretary)

DATE:

Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:

1. Draft Minutes for the February 3, 2021, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Presentation- Mass Tech Making an Impact
3. Presentation- MeHI Wins EDA SPRINT Grant