

MINUTES

Executive Committee Meeting

November 17, 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 Seventy Fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on November 17, 2021, by Zoom videoconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.

MINUTES

TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FOURTH MEETING

of the

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

November 17, 2021
Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred Seventy Fourth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”) was held on November 17, 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 Mark Fuller of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development), Alexandra Drane, Christina Royal, Julie Chen, Pam Reeve, and Rupa Cornell.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative Board of Directors were present and participated: Patrick Lynch and Tye Brady.

The following members of the Mass Tech Collaborative staff were present: Carolyn Kirk, Brianna Wehrs, Michael Baldino, Stephanie Helm, Ben Linville-Engler, Lisa Erlandson, Jennifer Saubermann, James Byrnes, Holly Lucas Murphy, Laurance Stuntz, Pat Larkin, Joseph Downing, Brian Noyes, Kelly Kleanthous, Jason Hoch, and Christine Nolan.

Mr. Fuller read the Public Meeting Requirements, did a roll call 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 2:04 p.m.

Agenda Item I Approval of Minutes

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by roll call vote of the Executive Committee, with one abstention by Mr. Fuller:

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 Seventy Third Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on September 15, 2021 via Zoom teleconference, as the formal Minutes thereof.

Agenda Item II Report of the Chairperson

Mr. Fuller began the meeting by stating that there has been much discussion around the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) funding, and the House and Senate versions of the ARPA bill are currently in conference committee. In addition Mr. Fuller said that there are several billion dollars in ARPA funding that will not be allocated by the Legislature until next year. He then turned the meeting over to Ms. Kirk.

Agenda Item III Report of the Executive Director

Ms. Kirk stated the leadership team will provide a “lightning round” update. She indicated that the staff is currently navigating the hybrid return to work with two days in the offices per week, and that MassTech has held outside events, which have been an interesting combination of hybrid and in-person.

Ms. Helm began the updates, indicating that the MassCyberCenter recently held the Massachusetts Municipal Cybersecurity Summit, which was a virtual event with over 400 participants. There were keynote addresses, panel discussions, and breakout sessions for audience participants. Ms. Helm noted that one of the most popular sessions was about the Minimum Baseline for Cybersecurity, which has been an important area of outreach by MassTech. She said that the Massachusetts Cybersecurity Month ended with the Annual Cybersecurity Forum, the fifth forum held by MassTech, which had a combination in-person and virtual programs. There were 147 online participants, and later in day an in-person networking session in Boston. Ms. Helm thanked CyberArk for their sponsorship of the event.

Next Mr. Larkin provided an Innovation Institute update. He stated the division was fully engaged this year in Boston Fintech Week, their most successful outing to date. Mr. Larkin indicated there were over 2,100 attendees, and 75% of attendees went to multiple sessions, averaging 6 sessions each over course of the week. He categorized the event as a tremendous success.

Mr. Stuntz then provided an update for the Massachusetts eHealth Institute (“MeHI”), stating they had participated heavily in organizing and bringing the HLTH Conference to Boston this year, a priority of Governor Baker’s Digital Health Council. The event had over 300 speakers and more than 7,000 attendees. Mr. Stuntz explained that the event required a combination of vaccination certification and onsite testing, with the testing site vendor doing over 4,000 day-of rapid tests. He stated it was gratifying to see the economic impact in bringing large conferences back to Boston, with 13 large hotels sold out. Mr. Stuntz also indicated that a few hundred attendees stopped by to talk to MassTech, mostly about the Digital Sandbox Network.

Next Ms. Wehrs and Mr. Baldino provided a Massachusetts Broadband Institute (“MBI”) update. Mr. Baldino began by describing the Mass Internet Connect Program, launched by MassTech 10 months ago with MassHire to address the technology barriers of unemployed job seekers. He explained that this program provides support to job seekers who have no internet access, need a device, and/or need technical support, and has helped 3,800 job seekers as of today. MBI will next be launching a Digital Navigator program with four MassHire career centers, to train MassHire staff to be Digital Navigators able to provide one-on-one support for MassHire customers who need digital literacy support. Ms. Wehrs stated that, as follow up to the October board meeting where we asked for approval to collect data and work on infrastructure and service quality mapping, MassTech had a meeting with the Governor and Lt. Governor as well as Secretary Kennealy and Secretary Wood where we received approval to move forward with the data mapping project. Ms. Wehrs stated that the mapping and data collection will inform where the future federal funding opportunities will be spent, and we will continue to share information with the Executive Committee as future programs and partnerships are established.

Ms. Nolan then gave her Center for Advanced Manufacturing (“CAM”) update, stating that CAM has been working on a project with Boston Consulting Group (“BCG”) to better identify the defense manufacturing ecosystem in Massachusetts. Ms. Nolan explained that they have identified firms in Massachusetts that work on defense manufacturing and CAM and the Massachusetts Office of Business Development (“MOBD”) will be doing outreach to these companies on a regular basis to understand their programs and supply chains. Ms. Nolan stated that through BCG’s research we understand the difficulty in commercializing this sort of work, and BCG has proposed an online portal as a way to get these ideas into the commercial field.

Ms. Saubermann next provided an update on the Legal and Government Affairs Department, stating that the addition of a Government Affairs Associate to the department has been very helpful. She indicated the department has been busy with three main categories of work related to government affairs: 1) staying informed and responding to legislative actions, such as the FY21 budget and the ARPA process; 2) building on and building new relationships, such as working with the Broadband Equity Commission; and 3) listening in on legislative hearings. She stated MassTech is working hard to build new relationships in the Legislature, interacting with key Committee Chairs and staff to make ourselves available, and that we will continue to stay engaged and active. After a brief discussion on potential future funding resources, Ms. Kirk stated there is no straight line for funding.

Ms. Erlandson next provided an update from the Finance Department, outlining current state and federal funding opportunities. For broadband, Ms. Erlandson stated that the Governor proposed a bill to spend \$100M in ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery funding to be used for a broadband digital equity initiative as well as funding for gap networks, but the House included \$50M, and the Senate included \$75M in their versions of the bill. Ms. Erlandson explained that this money is close to being finalized and most of the federal funding has a 5 year lifecycle. In addition, there is \$175M from the ARPA Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund allocated to Massachusetts and there is a strong preference by the federal government to use those funds for broadband. The process to access those funds has not yet begun. Regarding the recently passed Federal Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (“IIJA”), we will begin working on programming in anticipation of further guidance from the federal government. Regarding

cybersecurity, Ms. Erlandson stated that \$15 million was included in the Massachusetts Senate's version of the ARPA bill, and funding would come to MassTech to support the cybersecurity workforce and infrastructure in the state through cybersecurity operations centers and cyber ranges. In addition \$1.5M was earmarked in an FY22 line item that has similar language. Ms. Erlandson indicated MassTech is working on a scope of work around those activities. A discussion followed regarding allocation of broadband funding, and what we see in other states.

Mr. Noyes then discussed the Communications Department activities, stating that MassTech has had a good amount of statewide coverage, and some national news coverage as well. He indicated that cybersecurity was big in October and MassTech had some great coverage in that area, and that press in Western Massachusetts highlighted the Innovation Institute's Mentorship Program. In addition Mr. Noyes stated that the CAM Manufacturing Mash-up got some very good press. Ms. Kirk was also mentioned in the MA Latino News, highlighting our efforts in diversity. In addition MassTech has had increased web hits, with double the users compared to same time last year. Mr. Noyes explained that over the last few years we have also invested more in the MassTech LinkedIn profile, and have de-escalated use of Twitter, as LinkedIn has strong business and technology community access.

Finally Ms. Lucas-Murphy updated the group on the Human Resources Department. She stated that the annual review process is underway, utilizing a narrative assessment to gain an understanding from employees on engagement and performance.

Ms. Kirk then told the group that Mr. Stuntz was leaving MassTech, with his last day being December 1, and she thanked him for his service. Mr. Stuntz stated his time at MassTech had been a great experience.

Agenda Item IV Center for Advanced Manufacturing- Advanced Manufacturing Training Grants (motion item)

Ms. Nolan then moved on to discuss the CAM Advanced Manufacturing Training Program, explaining that the program has been in existence for a few years but this is the first year funding will be administered by MassTech. She went on to state that the intent of the program is to develop a fully coordinated statewide manufacturing training system. Services to be provided are workforce training programs in advanced manufacturing, including but not limited to recruitment, job training, placement activities, and supportive services. Ms. Nolan stated that the target populations for this program are unemployed and underemployed individuals, including veterans, and underrepresented populations including women and minorities, and this endeavor is being funded through an appropriation in the Fiscal Year 2022 State Budget. Ms. Nolan stated the Solicitation opened in August, we received 4 proposals totaling \$2.3 million, with a cumulative goal of training 581 individuals, with 471 individuals placed in advanced manufacturing jobs.

[Alexandra Drane left the meeting at 2:45p.m.]

After a period of discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was VOTED by roll call vote of the Executive Committee, with one abstention by Christina Royal:

The Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“MassTech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize the following grant awards under the Advanced Manufacturing Training Program (RFP No. 2022-MCAM-01), to be funded from Line Item 7002-0020 of the Commonwealth’s Fiscal Year 2022 budget:

- **MassHire North Central Workforce Board, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$575,000;**
- **MassHire Metro North Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$575,000;**
- **MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$575,000; and**
- **MassHire Hampden County Workforce Board in an amount not to exceed \$575,000.**

The grant awards are subject to the execution of grant agreements in a form and with terms approved by MassTech Collaborative’s Executive Director.

There being no other business to discuss and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST: (Secretary)

DATE:

Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:

1. Draft Minutes for the September 15, 2021 Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Presentation- Executive Director’s Report- Division Updates
3. Presentation- Center for Advanced Manufacturing – Manufacturing Training Grants (motion item)