

# MINUTES

## *TWO HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH MEETING*

of the

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

## MASSACHUSETTS TECHNOLOGY PARK CORPORATION

February 3, 2021

Zoom Videoconference

The Two Hundred Seventieth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation (“Mass Tech Collaborative”) was held on February 3, 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, Alexandra Drane, Anne Margulies, and Christina Royal.

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.

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 2:01 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 Sixty Ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee, held on November 18, 2020, by Zoom videoconference 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 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 the passage of the Economic Development Bill, stating that it has robust funding for Covid-19 relief as well as for Mass Tech Collaborative initiatives. Mr. Cox praised the work of the Mass Tech Collaborative and highlighted some of the recent accomplishments during the pandemic. He mentioned the Innovation Institute's work in FinTech, which has produced a clear pathway for Massachusetts to be a national leader in this space. Mr. Cox indicated that he would like to do a deeper dive on FinTech at a future meeting. He also cited the MassCyberCenter's endeavor to engage young people with diverse backgrounds to work with mentors in cybersecurity.

**Agenda Item III      Report of the Executive Director**

Ms. Kirk delivered the report of the Mass Tech Executive Director. She began by introducing Christine Nolan, the new Director for the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the Mass Tech Collaborative, and asked Ms. Nolan to provide some background about herself. Ms. Nolan stated she has a degree in manufacturing engineering from WPI, has extensive work experience in manufacturing engineering, and also worked for many years for the Mass. Technology Leadership Council.

Ms. Kirk then provided an update on the Economic Development Bill. She stated that the Economic Development Bill has been passed and includes \$67 million in bond funding for the Mass Tech Collaborative. She provided a breakdown of the funding, which includes \$52 million to recapitalize the R&D Matching Grant Fund; \$10 million for Advanced Manufacturing matching grants; and \$5 million to support capital expenditures for the MassBroadband 123 middle mile network. Ms. Kirk noted that the new advanced manufacturing funding provides more flexibility than the M2I2 program. She discussed the need for ongoing state support for the operations of the MassBroadband 123 network, which is an important public asset. She also mentioned that the Economic Development Bill creates a seat on the MassVentures Board of Directors for the Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Director. Ms. Kirk indicated that the capital funding will be expended to the Mass Tech Collaborative over multiple years based on the Commonwealth's capital plan.

Ms. Kirk then discussed the status of the Commonwealth's Fiscal Year 2021 budget, which was not passed until December. She reminded the Executive Committee that the Mass Tech Collaborative passed a conservative budget in June based on the Governor's recommendations. She informed the Executive Committee that the Commonwealth's Fiscal

Year 2021 budget included an additional \$700,000 in funding for the Mass Tech Collaborative. Ms. Kirk indicated that the resolution of the Commonwealth's budget will allow the Mass Tech Collaborative to lift the hiring freeze and ramp up spending and hit the ground running in other areas, including the Internship and Mentorship programs.

Ms. Kirk discussed the Governor's Fiscal Year 2022 budget proposal, which includes level funding for the Mass Tech Collaborative. She mentioned that this provides the organization with a two-year funding view and a longer planning window for staffing and programmatic activities. Ms. Kirk reviewed prior state funding trends and noted that from Fiscal Years 2015 - 2018, the legislature approved \$31.8 million in funding for the Mass Tech Collaborative, of which \$26.4 million was cut by the Administration. She indicated that there have not been any budget cuts by the Administration since Fiscal Year 2018. She noted that the funding stability reflects the fact that the Mass Tech Collaborative has proven itself to be relevant and indispensable. Ms. Kirk stated the goal is to now to stake out leadership positions across the landscape, which will require continued funding stability from the Commonwealth.

During the ensuing discussion members of the Executive Committee shared their perspective on the work of the Mass Tech Collaborative. Mr. Cox indicated that the Mass Tech Collaborative has been successful in building a brand where its work and role are well defined. Ms. Reeve stated that the funding only tells part of the story and she focused on the impact of the Mass Tech Collaborative's work. She urged the organization to continue to find opportunities to leverage its unique position in areas involving the Mass Tech Collaborative's highest, best and most differentiated work. Ms. Drane highlighted opportunities for the Mass Tech Collaborative to cut across silos and exploit synergies between divisions, including broadband and telehealth. A discussion ensued about different models for new initiatives, including the Center for Advanced Manufacturing and FinTech. Ms. Kirk concurred with Ms. Drane, and noted that cybersecurity is the other area of convergence with broadband and telehealth.

**Agenda Item IV      Approval Item- MA eHealth Institute – MassChallenge HealthTech Champion Award**

Ms. Kirk indicated the next item for discussion was MeHI's request for approval of a \$170,000 grant award to MassChallenge to continue support for the MassChallenge HealthTech ("MCHT") program. Mr. Stuntz provided the details on the proposed grant award and clarified that the award was included in MeHI's Fiscal Year 2021 budget but was put on hold pending resolution of the Commonwealth's Fiscal Year 2021 budget. He reviewed MeHI's support for MassChallenge and the evolution of MeHI's role and indicated that the proposed grant award would provide a fifth year of funding. Mr. Stuntz emphasized that support for the MCHT program is a key priority of the Governor's Digital Health Council. He indicated that this will likely be the last year of funding, but that Mass Tech will continue to partner with MassChallenge, and if additional opportunities arise they will be reviewed. Mr. Stuntz noted that MassChallenge has included MeHI in all planning and program activities for the year to date, knowing that this funding support was at risk, and they are aware this is anticipated to be the last year of funding.

Mr. Stuntz stated that Mass Tech has been very pleased with the work done by MassChallenge over the last five years, and said that this award will support: (1) Champion Sponsorship of Executive Office of Health and Human Services (“EOHHS”) agencies in the 2021 program cohort, (2) promoting the HLTH conference in October 2021, (3) continued efforts to refine and support standardized cybersecurity risk assessment of digital health solutions, particularly through the national Together.Health alliance, and (4) Commonwealth Day to showcase history of collaboration between startups and EOHHS agencies sponsored by MeHI. Mr. Stuntz observed that MassChallenge has a strong track record of supporting startups. During the ensuing discussion, Mr. Stuntz clarified that while MassChallenge’s budget has gone up, MeHI’s level of support has remained constant. Ms. Kirk emphasized that MeHI’s funding comes from a one-time allocation and needs to be replenished.

After some additional 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 (“Mass Tech Collaborative”), acting pursuant to the authority delegated under Chapter 40J of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, does hereby authorize a grant award to MassChallenge for fiscal year 2021 not to exceed \$170,000 for the MassChallenge HealthTech Program, as presented.**

**Funds shall be awarded from the eHealth Institute Fund. The grant award to MassChallenge is subject to the execution of a grant agreement in a form and with terms approved by Mass Tech Collaborative’s Executive Director.**

After the approval of the motion a discussion ensued about the Massachusetts Broadband Institute’s expanding role in addressing digital literacy and digital equity challenges. 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 3:02 p.m.

A TRUE COPY

ATTEST:  
(Secretary)

DATE:

**Materials and Exhibits Used at this Meeting:**

1. Draft Minutes for the November 18, 2020, Mass Tech Collaborative Executive Committee Meeting
2. Presentation- Budget Update
3. Presentation and Approval Item- MassChallenge HealthTech Champion Award