

Addison County Communications Union District
DbA Maple Broadband

Monthly Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2020

5:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89422191775?pwd=ZlJlYlVGSEhEVm41UUhOSHFpS2YzUT09>

Meeting ID: 894 2219 1775

Passcode: 571606

Join by phone: 1 (646) 558-8656

Steve Huffaker, Chair of the Addison County Communications Union District (“ACCUD”) confirmed a quorum was present, welcomed the representatives of the member towns, and called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

1. Welcome/Introductions/Roll Call

The following people were present:

Carl Siebecker, Delegate from Shoreham;
Dan Sonneborn, Delegate from Bristol;
Nancy Cornell, Delegate from Starksboro;
Ross Conrad, Delegate from Middlebury;
Steve Huffaker, Delegate from Ferrisburgh;
Andrew Martin, Delegate from Waltham;
Hugh McLaughlin, Alternate Middlebury;
Billy Sneed, Delegate Ripton;
Howard Hall, Delegate Panton;
Paul Vaczy, Alternate Salisbury;
Magna Dodge, Delegate Cornwall;
Arabella Holzappel, Treasurer, Ferrisburgh;
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Delegate Monkton;
Jancy Butterworth, Alternate Lincoln;
Spencer Putnam, Delegate Weybridge;
Mark Gibson, Alternate Bristol;
Ellie Hagopian, Alternate New Haven;
Jeremy Grip, Alternate Bristol;
Paul Forlenza, Delegate Lincoln;
Jim Walsh, Delegate New Haven;

Adam Lougee, Clerk, non-member representing Addison County Regional Planning Commission (“ACRPC”).

2. **Agenda Approval.** Steve asked for additions or changes to the agenda. **Hearing no changes, Magna Dodge moved the agenda. Nancy Cornell seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.**
3. **Adoption of January Meeting minutes:** The minutes were posted to the website and distributed prior to the meeting. After noting some non-substantive alterations to the minutes, **Paul Forlenza moved to adopt the minutes as amended. Carl Seibecker seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.**
4. **Committee Structure Memorandum:** Steve noted he had sent this out before the meeting. **He asked people to volunteer and asked that they make their choices by Friday, February 5th.**
5. **Executive Committee Report for January:** Steve noted that the Executive Committee had worked hard on the Board's behalf during the month of January. He listed the following activities and accomplishments:
 - a. Conducted introductory meetings with several broadband operators; Billy Sneed summarized the meetings. Billy noted we met with:
 - i. Valley.net - Currently the strongest CUD in Vermont, provide service to Granville and Hancock, may be overstretched.
 - ii. NRTC a coop based in Texas, strong in design and build and provide services to other operators, may already be working with other CUDs in VT;
 - iii. Sertex, a design-builder from CT. It became apparent that it is not a good fit for Maple Broadband;
 - iv. WCVT: Local operator, good reputation, interested in operations;
 - v. GWI: A Maine ISP with capabilities across the spectrum, a strong relationship with Valleyen, but no current presence in VT.
 - b. Steve Thanked Billy for the summary. He noted the Executive Committee is now focused on what we want to do. It focused on the Feasibility Study, which stated MapleBroadband should look to find an operator and/or combine with another CUD. The Executive Board felt our strongest move was to look at a public-private partnership with an operator. Steve requested that the full board authorize the executive committee to focus on WCVT and Valley.net to determine at a high level whether either would be a good fit for Maple Broadband. During the discussion, Steve noted that we are focusing on the operator, and then will flesh out design/build after we determine an operator to pursue. Steve noted he believes that this is the best course to pursue to get to funders quickly. An operator allows us to build a specific business plan and partner with whom to seek funding.

Nancy Cornell moved to authorize the Executive Committee to proceed with high-level discussions with operators, including but not limited to WCVT and Valley.Net. Magna Dodge seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.

Nancy Cornell further moved that if the Executive Committee comes to a consensus on the best operator to move forward with, it authorizes the Executive Board to move into negotiations with that operator or to issue an RFP. Spence Putnam seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ross Conrad clarified that the Executive Committee will keep briefing the full board as developments move forward.

Mark Bolt-Robinson clarified that the Executive Committee would need the full Board's approval to sign any agreement.

6. **New Addison County Members:** Steve reported that ACCUD membership expanded to 18. Bridport and Whiting have joined. Steve has reached out again to Addison, Vergennes, and Goshen, the remaining towns in the region.
7. **Treasurer's Report.** Arabella noted Maple Broadband had a fund balance of about \$26,000 after all the CARES funding payments have been cashed. We have no current payables or receivables.
10. **Clerk's Report:** Adam encouraged members with ideas regarding other funding sources should speak with Steve, Nancy, or Magna.
11. **Other Business:** None.
12. **Future Meeting Schedule.** March 3rd, 2021.
13. **Adjourn** – Mark Boltz-Robinson moved to adjourn and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee, Clerk