

Maple Broadband
2020 Annual Report
December 2, 2020

A Communications Union District (CUD) is an organization of two or more towns that join together as a municipal entity to build communication infrastructure. Vermont legislation, VSA 30 Chapter 82, enabled the formation of CUDs, and “Maple Broadband” is the name we have chose, for our CUD.

Our member towns include Bristol, Cornwall, Ferrisburgh, Leicester, Lincoln, Middlebury, Monkton, New Haven, Orwell, Panton, Ripton, Salisbury, Shoreham, Starksboro, Waltham, and Weybridge. Our mission is to make locally-controlled, affordable, and reliable high-speed internet service available to every address in our member towns; and to ensure that all subscribers receive prompt, user-friendly customer service and tech support.

The official organizational meeting of Maple Broadband was held on September 3, 2020. During our first three months of existence, we focused on setting up the new organization and fundraising.

Our Governing Board has 16 representatives appointed by Selectboards of the member towns. We have an Executive Committee and established three temporary subcommittees to work on specific tasks. Meeting times, agendas and minutes are posted on our temporary website hosted by Addison County Regional Planning Commission <http://acrpc.org/programs-services/accud/>. We will be launching our permanent website in the coming days.

Between September and November 2020, we raised \$130,000 in grants to support the startup of the organization. The Vermont Community Foundation provided a total of \$30,000 in grants to support general operating expenses. The Vermont Department of Public Service awarded \$100,000 in CARES Act funds which allowed us to retain administrative and consulting services from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission, engage a website and marketing firm to help inform the community about our organization, and legal representation.

The year 2021 will be an important year for Maple Broadband. While it is difficult to predict with certainty what our network will look like by the end of 2021, in the coming months, we expect to be engaging an operating partner and implementing a business plan as we prepare to build our fiber network. If we experience favorable market conditions in the coming year, our first phase subscribers will have high-speed internet service in 2022.

Submitted by Maple Broadband Governing Board,

Executive Committee: Dan Sonneborn (Bristol), Magna Dodge (Cornwall), Steve Huffaker (Ferrisburgh), Billy Sneed (Ripton), Nancy Cornell (Starksboro)

Treasurer: Arabella Holzapfel (Ferrisburgh)

Governing Board: Paul Forlenza (Lincoln), Ross Conrad (Middlebury), Mark Boltz-Robinson (Monkton), Jim Walsh (New Haven), Dave Carpenter (Orwell), Howard Hall (Panton), Amey Ryan (Salisbury), Carl Siebecker (Shoreham), Andrew S. Martin (Waltham), Spencer Putnam (Weybridge), Brad Lawes (Leicester)

Maple Broadband Members

Bristol
Lincoln
Orwell
Starksboro

Cornwall
Middlebury
Ripton
Waltham

Ferrisburgh
Monkton
Salisbury
Weybridge

Leicester
New Haven
Shoreham
Panton