

Maple Broadband
Addison County Communications Union District

Monthly Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2021

5:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m.

VIA ZOOM

To attend the meeting via your computer or mobile device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88108054091?pwd=K3drdUdxempoeE5GY3VGVm1aO0tsOT09>

To attend the meeting remotely by phone, without video:

call +1 646 558 8656, Meeting ID: 881 0805 4091, Passcode: 973267

Nancy Cornell and Adam Lougee took the roll call listed below.

Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband welcomed the representatives of the member towns, and called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

1. Welcome/Introductions/Roll Call. The following people were present:

Paul Nikolich, Alternate Addison;
Rick Scott, Delegate Bridport;
Mike Sheets, Alternate Bridport;
Magna Dodge, Delegate Cornwall;
Cy Tall, Alternate Cornwall;
Steve Huffaker, Delegate Ferrisburgh;
Kate McGowan, Alternate Lincoln;
Ross Conrad, Delegate Middlebury;
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Delegate Monkton;
Ellie Hagopian, Alternate New Haven;
Howard Hall, Delegate Panton;
Paul Vaczy, Delegate Salisbury;
Carl Siebecker, Delegate Shoreham;
Nancy Cornell, Delegate Starksboro;
Shannon Haggett, Delegate Vergennes;
Andrew Martin, Delegate Waltham;
Spence Putnam, Delegate Weybridge;

Adam Lougee, Clerk, non-member representing Addison County Regional Planning Commission

- 2. Agenda Approval.** Steve asked for additions or changes to the agenda. **Shannon Haggett moved approval of the agenda. Mike Sheets seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote/show of hands.**
- 3. Annual Report:** Steve Huffaker presented the annual report which was also included in the

package. Steve highlighted Maple Broadbands accomplishments to date this year.

4. Budget and Financials: Next, Steve presented the proposed budget for next year and financials for the year to date and projected through the year end. As part of his presentation, Steve thanked the member towns that had already donated ARPA money and noted that the financials would need to be updated to reflect the \$25,000 contribution Maple Broadband received from the Town of Ripton today.

Several delegates requested help from Maple Broadband regarding information they could present to their selectboards. They requested that the Executive Board create a concise sheet of talking points that referenced both costs and needs.

Magna Dodge moved to approve sending the proposed Budget, financials and Annual Report to the legislative bodies of Maple Broadbands member communities in preparation for a public hearing it will hold at its next full board meeting on November 3, 2021. Andrew Martin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a voice vote, show of hands.

5. Materials Scarcity: Steve noted that scarcity and long lead times on materials and labor constitute the biggest issues challenging Maple Broadband's ability to get to construction in 2022. He noted the item with the longest lead time is fiber. Your Executive Committee is trying to address scarcity issues in two ways. First, it has issued an RFP for the fiber Maple Broadband will need if it is going to build next year. It expects to have responses back on that RFP by our next meeting. One of the big items on the agenda will likely be whether we can purchase that fiber in time to make construction next year. The other issue it continues to address is funding. Thank you for your help requesting ARPA funding from your towns. Our ability to purchase fiber in a timely manner will dictate our construction timeline. The Executive Committee is also pursuing bridge financing from a number of other sources to help support our purchase of fiber. We hope to bring news of those efforts to our next Full Board meeting as well. Steve requested that all attend. It will be an important meeting.
6. Future Meeting: Our next meeting will be our regularly scheduled meeting on November 3rd, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m. The first portion of the meeting will be dedicated to a public hearing on the Annual Report and Budget the Full Board just recommended. It will be followed by a regular business meeting.
7. Adjourn: **Spencer Putnam moved to adjourn, and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:10 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Adam Lougee, Clerk