

Maple Broadband
Addison County Communications Union District

Monthly Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2022

5:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m.

VIA ZOOM

To attend the meeting via your computer or mobile device:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86582210488?pwd=VnZ3MlIrdHo0dmdDeGtjS28yMTNrUT09> Meeting ID:

865 8221 0488

Passcode: 568348

Join by phone: +1 646 558 8656

Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed the representatives of the member towns.

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

Dan Sonneborn, Delegate Bristol;
Magna Dodge, Delegate Cornwall;
Steve Huffaker, Delegate Ferrisburgh;
Arabella Holzapfel, Alternate Ferrisburgh;
Ross Conrad, Delegate Middlebury;
Hugh McLaughlin, Alternate Middlebury;
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Delegate Monkton;
Ellie DeVilliers, Delegate New Haven;
Jim Robinson, Delegate Orwell;
Paul Vaczy, Delegate Salisbury;
Carl Seibecker, Delegate Shoreham;
Nancy Cornell, Delegate Starksboro;
Rich Warren, Alternate Starksboro;
Shannon Haggett, Delegate Vergennes;
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. He noted he would like to move the executive session to the end of the agenda after other business if he needed it. **Spence Putnam moved approval of the agenda as amended by Steve. Paul Vaczy seconded the**

motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.

3. Approve meeting minutes from May 10, 2022. **Magna Dodge moved approval of the Annual Meeting minutes from May. Shannon Hasggett seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All approved the minutes, by a voice vote/show of hands.**
4. Public Comments. No members of the public attended to make comments.
5. Delegate Appointments Reminder. Steve noted that two towns, Leicester and Whiting, had not appointed delegates and that we are still looking for delegates from those member municipalities.
6. Grant Report.
 - a. WCVT Preconstruction Report: Steve noted that WCVT is looking for a pre-construction grant. Maple Broadband is helping them with that application fulfilling Maple Broadband's duty to make sure that all towns within Maple Broadband get built out as soon as possible.
 - b. Construction Grant. Steve noted that our construction grant is still in limbo at VCBB. Otelco/GoNet Speed has submitted an application to get pre-qualified to receive grants in Maple Broadband's territory. The VCBB has denied that request and Otelco/Go Net Speed has appealed its decision. The VCBB has not acted on our application pending Otelco/Go Net Speed's appeal. VCBB also ordered Otelco/Go Net Speed and Maple Broadband to meet and try to work things out. Steve, Ellie and Magna met with Otelco/Go Net Speed and VCBB last week. The parties agreed that they could not work together.. This coming Monday VCBB is scheduled to review Otelco/Go Net Speed's appeal. Maple Broadband expects VCBB will deny the appeal. Maple Broadband has resubmitted its construction grant application for its Phase I build and intends to move full speed ahead when it can. Steve will let the Board know the results of any actions of the VCBB when they happen.

The Board continued its discussion with a number of questions that Steve addressed speculating possible outcomes. In the end all agreed to wait for the decision and then reconvene if necessary to move forward.

Jim Robinson asked about Lamoille Fiber's build plans. Steve noted that they were moving forward with an agreement with Google fiber. Steve noted Maple Broadband had evaluated Google's offer and chose not to participate since we already had signed an agreement with WCVT as our service partner.

7. Operations Report.
 - a. Material Pre-purchase update: Steve noted maple Broadband has pre-purchased \$1.8 Million dollars worth of long lead time equipment. That equipment is starting to be delivered to our facility at WCVT in Waitsfield. The last of the equipment will probably arrive in October, but in time for our build.
 - b. Other: Steve noted Andrew Martin, our delegate from Waltham, has been very helpful in creating construction documents for our hub locations.
8. Town Contribution Update. Steve reported that he had visited Shoreham and Orwell last week, but given the operational challenges noted above, he had not solicited funds.

9. Marketing Report: Dan Sonneborn reported that Maple Broadband had hired a marketing intern from Middlebury College for this summer. Middlebury College is generously paying for the student's time. She will start at the beginning of June. Steve noted that the Marketing committee had selected a marketing firm, vetted the contract and will be ready to go soon, timed with our construction cycle and the VCBB decision.
10. Other Business: None.
11. Future Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 6st, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. unless Steve feels the need to call a special meeting after the VCBB meeting. Steve will let all delegates and alternates know the result of the VCBB meeting as soon after they release their decision as he can.
12. Adjourn: **Magna Dodge moved to adjourn. Ellie Devilliers seconded the motion and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:05 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee, Clerk