

**Maple Broadband**  
**Addison County Communications Union District**

**Monthly Meeting Minutes**

**May 10, 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/86958279591?pwd=YnlNQWU14VU91b0pRY2UxaDZVYlhhQT09>

[Meeting ID: 869 5827 9591](#)

Join by phone: +1 646 558 8656

Steve Huffaker, Chair of Maple Broadband opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed the representatives of the member towns.

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

Paul Nikolich, Delegate Addison;  
Rick Scott, Delegate Bridport;  
Mike Sheets, Alternate Bridport;  
Dan Sonneborn, Delegate Bristol;  
Magna Dodge, Delegate Cornwall;  
Cy Tall, Alternate Cornwall;  
Steve Huffaker, Delegate Ferrisburgh;  
Arabella Holzapfel, Alternate Ferrisburgh;  
Paul Forlenza, Alternate Lincoln;  
Hugh McLaughlin, Alternate Middlebury;  
Mark Boltz-Robinson, Delegate Monkton;  
Ellie DeVillers, Delegate New Haven;  
Billy Sneed, Alternate Ripton;  
Paul Vaczy, Delegate Salisbury;  
Carl Seibecker, Delegate Shoreham;  
Shannon Haggett, Delegate Vergennes;  
Spence Putnam, Delegate Weybridge;

Adam Lougee, Clerk, non-member representing Addison County Regional Planning Commission  
Roger Nishi, Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom

**2. Agenda Approval.** Steve asked for additions or changes to the agenda. **Hugh McLaughlin moved approval of the agenda. Magna Dodge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a**

**voice vote/show of hands.**

3. Approve meeting minutes from April 6, 2022. **Magna Dodge moved approval of the minutes from April. Paul Vaczy seconded the motion to approve the minutes. All approved the minutes from April's meeting, which passed by a voice vote/show of hands.**
4. Officer Elections. Steve Huffaker turned the meeting over to Adam Lougee, Clerk to run the election.
  - a. Chair. Adam noted at the previous meeting the Executive Committee had nominated Steve Huffaker to remain as Chair of Maple Broadband. He noted it had opened the floor to other nominees at that time and no one had volunteered. Adam opened the floor again for other nominees to Serve as Chair. Hearing none, Adam asked for a motion to re-elect Steve Huffaker as Chair of Maple Broadband. **Hugh McLaughlin moved to elect Steve Huffaker as Chair. Carl Seibecker seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
  - b. Vice Chair. Adam noted at the previous meeting the Executive Committee had Nominated Ellie DeVillers to serve as Vice Chair of Maple Broadband. He noted it had opened the floor to other nominees at that time and no one had volunteered. Adam opened the floor again for other nominees to serve as Vice Chair. Hearing none, Adam asked for a motion to elect Ellie DeVillers as Vice Chair of Maple Broadband. **Steve Huffaker moved to elect Ellie DeVillers as Vice Chair. Shannon Haggett seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.**
5. Delegate Appointments Reminder. Steve noted that two towns, Leicester and Whiting, had not appointed delegates. Hugh Mclaughlin stated he will work on getting a delegate from Whiting.
6. Grant Report. For this portion of the meeting, **Steve Huffaker moved to find that premature public knowledge of Maple Broadband's contractual negotiations would clearly place Maple Broadband at a substantial disadvantage in those negotiations. Paul Forlenza seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**

**Steve then moved that Maple Broadband enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Maple Broadband's contractual negotiations. Magna Dodge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**

**The Board entered executive session at 5:30 p.m.**

**The Board left executive session at 5:57 p.m.**
7. Audit Report and Treasurer's Report. Cy Tall reported on the Audit and other financial documents she had sent out prior to the meeting. Cy noted our audit is complete and accurately reflects Maple Broadband's financial position. She also noted that the auditor made some findings and suggestions about internal documentation of grants, but most of those comments stemmed from the very infancy of MapleBroadband and have been corrected. **Magna Dodge moved to accept the audit report. Paul Nikolich seconded the motion which passed unanimously by a voice vote/show of hands.**

8. Operations Report.
  - a. Material Pre-purchase update: Steve showed a picture of the fenced area at WCVT where MapleBroadband will be storing its equipment. He noted we had started to receive cable strand, and would get our shipping container tomorrow.

- b. Secure Staging Update: The area is up and functioning.
  - c. Phase 1 Hub Locations: Maple Broadband is working on finding willing landowners and permits for its hub locations. He may call delegates from member towns where the hubs will be located and ask them for local connections.
  - d. Construction Update: We are still working towards a fall start. Steve expects a completed design package within a couple of weeks and will look to speak with Construction bidders by early June.
9. Town Contribution Update. Steve reported that 8 of our 20 towns had contributed \$335,000. He was pleased with that to date and encouraged delegates from towns that had not contributed to speak with their selectboard.
10. Marketing Report:
- a. Orwell Presentation - May 23rd
  - b. Shoreham Presentation - May 25th
  - c. Intern. He also noted 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.
  - d. Other. Dan Sonneborn noted that the Marketing committee had selected a marketing firm, has vetted the contract and will be ready to go soon, timed with our construction cycle.
11. Other Business: Hugh McLaughlin noted he saw a Maple Broadband/Vantagepoint vehicle in Middlebury last week.
12. Future Meeting: Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 1st, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
13. Adjourn: **Magna Dodge moved to adjourn. Paul Nikolich seconded the motion and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:25 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee, Clerk