

NEWBURY TELECOMMUNICATIONS RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT.

Monday, August 27, 2018

4:30 PM, Tenney Library, Newbury Village

Newbury REDInet Meeting Minutes

Lenice called the meeting to order at 4:40 PM

Present: Lenice Cicchini, Chip Conquest, Nate Dudenhoffer, Brad Vietje, Edward Childs, Rick Hausman (guest)

1. **Updates to Agenda:**

Chip proposed reconsideration of the negotiating position with CCI.

2. **Note taker:** ED 8/27, (Chip 9/10, Ken 9/24)

Lenice: Typo in attendees.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** August 13, 2018 minutes

Approved with spelling correction by Lenice.

4. **Treasurers Report:** Funds on hand, bills paid, funds received

Treasurer not present. No report.

5. **Clerk's Report:** survey reports,

Brad reported that his computer was still being repaired.

6. **Sub-Committee Reports:**

a. **Consolidated Design Contract:** Discuss draft 2.4 FairPoint (CCI) contract

There was a broad-ranging discussion of possible other approaches to a partnership with CCI (e.g. renegotiate the deal so that they would pay for the engineering study). Other possible avenues were discussed regarding alternative funding and partners. Brett Long (had contact with Rick a few weeks ago), with VT Commerce and Community Development (possible funding source). Liane proposes talking directly to GMP regarding the use of their poles for stringing fiber, or whether they plan to do this themselves. Christine Hallquist (Democratic candidate for Governor) proposes rolling out fiber via utility lines on her campaign website. REDI could contact a Hallquist staffer regarding how to reach out to GMP. Possibly dark fiber on GMP poles already

exists? Newbury residents who contacted REDI members at West Newbury meeting overwhelmingly cited reliability as a key issue, giving CCI/FairPoint multiple black marks in this regard. Possibly EC Fiber would be another partner via Corinth. In general, REDI needs to reformulate its basic goals for the Newbury project. (Setting rates, affordability, provision for libraries, schools, low income residents, etc.).

Edward moved that we shelve current consideration of the consolidated design contract 2.4 indefinitely and included a list of action items from the discussion. Brad seconded. Nate amended the motion to delete action items and to read more simply: That REDI shelve current consideration of the consolidated design contract 2.4 indefinitely. The amendment was approved, and the motion carried. The following action items were agreed:

1. Reach out to GMP. Her staff might help put us in touch with GMP. Rick will reach out to her campaign team.
2. Nate will reach out to GMP and EC Fiber.
3. Brett Long would be consulted. Rick will contact Brett.
4. Chip will invite Matt Dunne to REDI meeting.
5. Brad will contact Ross Hart at SBA.

b. Contract Generation and Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI):

c. Technology:

6. **Finance:** Next options: Brett Long might help with this. New market tax credits. Long difficult process. Not seed money. Take business model to bank. WRSB, Vermont Community Loan Fund, VSECU.

d. Publicity: So Long Summer Hello Fall September 1, 2018

e. Proposed amended Statute: No discussion.

f. Web site: Looks great, thanks Jim!

7. USDA pilot program

No discussion.

8. Customer surveys: Electronic version of survey 1st part available, 2nd no longer a link.

9. Operating business models: Nate has a presentation for when Claude gets back.

10. Next steps, Discussion of schedule: See item a.) under Sub-committee reports.

11. Board members: Replacements? (Ken Rower). Still down one board member. Lenice would like it to be a woman.

12. Other Business:

13. Next REDI meeting: September 10, 2018, Tenney Library, 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Submitted: Edward Childs, 9/6/2018

Lenice adjourned the meeting at 6:10 PM