

Newbury REDI District

Minutes of 12-11-2017 meeting at Tenney Library

Meeting called to order at 4:44 PM.

Board Members present: Lenice Cicchini, Jim Henderson, Dan Burwinkel, Claude Phipps, Susan Underwood, and Brad Vietje. **Guests Present:** Richard Pollock & Edward Childs

- 1) **Agenda addition:** None.
- 2) **Note taker:** Edward Childs
- 3) **Minutes:** Lenice moved to approve the minutes of 11-13-2017 as corrected. Jim seconded. Passed. Claude suggested tabling the minutes of 11-27-2017 as they had not been available for review.
- 4) **Treasurer's report:** Dan reported that he had a check for \$500 to be deposited in a Wells River Savings Bank REDI account later in the week. Claude mentioned that although QuickBooks had been suggested in a previous meeting, Dan was free to use whatever accounting software he wanted. Dan will use a spreadsheet
- 5) **Clerk's report:** Brad mentioned the need to warn the Jan. 8 annual meeting, to be held in the school cafeteria. A hard copy posting will be place at the Town Office, Library and Wells River clerk's office. A schedule of 2 weeks, 1 week and 2 days prior was suggested. Dan proposed the setup of a new Google Group composed to the email addresses of all who responded to the survey. Periodic updates on meetings and other matters can be posted to the group. Members would be free to unsubscribe. Claude mentioned that the Jan. 8 date for the annual meeting was hard-wired into the statute. However, this may be changed via the By-Laws. Brad will prepare a report on REDI to be included in the Town Report. Due date for copy is Dec. 22. Brad would appreciate comments and input. There was some discussion as to whether Brad's report should be part of other ReNewbury reports or on a separate NewburyReady.net page. Richard Roderick was mentioned in the discussion.
- 6) **Sub Committee Reports:**
 - a) **Fairpoint Coordination:** As of the meeting Chip had not a list of survey deliverables from Fairpoint. Following the meeting Chip posted Jeff Austin's response to the group.
 - b) **Technology:** The need for a phone conference device was discussed (Konftel, Jabra ranging in price from \$100 to \$600. A VOIP subscription would also be needed at ~\$3/month). Jim suggested experimenting first. Dan and Brad both have access to equipment they can borrow.
 - c) **Finance:** Rick Hausman and Laurie Williams had leads on potential donors but needed to qualify them before reaching out.
 - d) **Publicity:** Chip reported via email that he is still waiting for responses from the Vermont congressional delegation to his email. He also wants to phone and is waiting on contact information from a person in the Democratic House caucus.
 - e) **By-laws Committee:** Claude mentioned differences with Chip on voting rights. Claude feels that any subscriber to REDI should have a vote, whether a Newbury resident or not. Chip feels

that per the statute any registered voter of the town of Newbury should be able to vote whether a subscriber or not. Resolution to await further discussions and suggestions to the legislature.

- f) **Web Site:** Jim wishes to donate the funds necessary to secure a website with a host that has easier “drag and drop” editing features than the WordPress site currently being used. Claude recommended that Jim donate the funds to Dan to keep the finances straight. Lenice moved name the new site NewburyREDI.net (securing also .com and .org). Dan confirmed the availability of the domains. Susan seconded. The motion passed. Dan moved to spend \$50 to submit the NewburyREDI logo idea to a graphics contest. Lenice seconded. The motion passed. Ed’s video looked OK. Jim will post the link on the existing site. Dan and Jim will work out the details of the new site.
- 7) **“Last Mile” Policy:** Rick reported by email that the matter was complicated and needed more time. Lenice mentioned last mile charges from \$800 to \$1,100 from an Australian project. Rick mentioned that John Munson of Ryegate signed up with Exede satellite rather than wait. Rick agreed to research what it would cost to get broadband to his house (pole leases, fiber optic, installation) and report back when he knows more, so we could use that as an example.
- 8) **Seasonal Use Policy:** Rich Pollock referenced the greenlight Community Broadband project in Wilson, North Carolina. The company requires no contract, so people can turn on and off as they want. However, Wilson is a city and the economics in Newbury might not allow such a policy. Also mentioned were reduced rate, subsidies, affordability, single contract for apartment buildings. More options must be explored.
- 9) **White Paper:** Lenice has contacted CJ Stumpf regarding a date to discuss the white paper. Claude contacted her about the need for an MOU, and a revised white paper with more realistic numbers. Lenice will reach out again and propose a time of 5 PM to discuss the White Paper at the Jan. 22, 2018 meeting at 5 PM.
- 10) **Next steps, schedule:** Jim suggested that the new website could be up by the end of February, in time for the town meeting.
- 11) **Other business:** Claude requested funds not to exceed \$10 for the purchase of a paper copy of Robert’s Rules of Order. Susan made the motion to approve the expenditure and Brad seconded. The motion passed. Free training is available to municipalities on Robert’s Rules. Susan will investigate. A New Year’s party was discussed (informal, not an official meeting). The next By-Laws meeting will be held on Dec. 18.
- 12) **Next REDI Board meeting:** January 22, 2018 at the Tenney Library, 4:30 – 6:30 PM

Claude adjourned the meeting at 6:19 PM.