

Newbury REDI Board minutes -- 2-26-2018

Tenney memorial Library

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM

Attending were: Claude Phipps, Laurie Williams, Rick Hausman, Richard Pollock, Susan Underwood, Dan Burwinkel, Brad Vietje, Ed Childs, Jim Henderson, Nate Dudenhoefter, Lenice Cicchini

The minutes from the previous meeting were corrected to reflect the date of February, 12, 2018, and that Brad Vietje brought the telephone to the last board meeting. Nate Dudenhoefter moved that the minutes be approved as corrected. Jim Henderson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Laurie Williams reported on the progress of the application for the USDA grant to fund a feasibility study. Laurie was notified by Susan Poland from the USDA that NewburyREDInet is not eligible for the grant, and Laurie explained the reasons for our ineligibility, as well as the possibility of having a third party who would assume all fiduciary responsibility apply for us. Possible third party applicants were discussed, as well as alternative sources of funding. It was determined that Laurie will continue to work on the grant application, though she clarified that she could not be the point person for a third party applicant. Claude Phipps will contact Eric Law regarding the feasibility study, as well as Vermont Development and The Tenney Library as potential third party applicants. Nate Dudenhoefter will contact White River Investment Club as a possible source of alternative funding. Lenice Cicchini had contacted Senator Bernie Sanders's office, and was awaiting a call back. She will continue to reach out to Vermont representatives. The deadline for the USDA grant is April 30, 2018.

The meeting with CJ at the State House on February 20, 2018 was discussed at length, including the features of the proposed model and spreadsheet for the project, the proposed MOU with CJ, the proposed feasibility study, and negotiations with Fairpoint/Consolidated. Dan Burwinkel moved that an MOU be created between NewburyREDInet and all non-board members involved with NewburyREDInet. The MOU will state that all work being done for NewburyREDInet will be done solely on a volunteer basis until otherwise

specified. Susan Underwood seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. Dan will create the document, and send it out tomorrow. In addition Jim Henderson moved that an MOU be created between NewburyREDInet and Fairpoint/Consolidated to specify that no one other than a NewburyREDInet board member shall have the authority to represent NewburyREDInet in discussions or negotiations with Fairpoint/Consolidated. Lenice Cicchini seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. Ed Childs will create the document.

Also discussed were NewburyREDInet's coordination with Fairpoint/Consolidated and possible alternatives to Fairpoint/Consolidated for conducting the feasibility study. Claude Phipps read an email received from Chip Conquest updating the board on conversations with Jeff Austin from Fairpoint/Consolidated. Dan Burwinkel will reach out to First Light regarding the study.

Dan Burwinkel reported that in order to secure a rate of \$2.95 per month for web hosting, it is necessary to sign up for three years. The domain registration is also on a three year basis. Nate Dudenhoeffer moved that the board appropriate up to and not exceeding \$275.00 to cover the cost of web hosting and domain registration. Jim Henderson seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Jim Henderson will donate

\$150.00 toward covering the cost.

Brad Vietje reported that he will sign the paperwork this week to complete the application for an account at Wells River Savings Bank. He also reported that NewburyREDInet needs a SAM account, and he is working on obtaining that.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM. The next meeting will be on March 14, 2018 at 4:30 PM at Tenney Memorial Library.