

Newbury Telecommunication Rural Economic Development Infrastructure District
Regular Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2018

Chair Claude Phipps called the meeting to order at 7:50 pm. Board members seated in the front were: Claude; Lenice Cicchini, Vice-Chair; Dan Burwinkel, Treasurer; Brad Vietje, Clerk; Chip Conquest, Member; Jim Henderson, Member; Susan Underwood, Member. Committee members also in attendance were Ed Childs, Rick Hausman, Richard Pollock, Laurie Williams.

Updates to Agenda: Claude suggested adding to Item 4 the wording, “and to elect officers.”

Selection of note taker: Susan Underwood.

Approval of Minutes (November 27, 2017, 12/11/17 (changed from 12/4/27) and 11/13/17 (added). Moved and seconded. Lenice moved to amend the December 11, 2017 minutes: Lenice asked CJ Stumpf if she would attend a follow-up meeting regarding revisions to the white paper. They did not actually discuss the revisions or the memo of understanding. Susan moved to accept the minutes noting the amended December 11 minutes, Jim seconded, and minutes as amended were approved.

Motion to approve at-large board members and to elect officers. Dan moved to accept the nominations of the four at-large members presented at the annual meeting: Chip, Lenice, Ed, and Nate Dudenhoeffer. Jim seconded the motion, and it was so voted by the board members.

Chip moved to continue the current slate of officers: Claude, chair; Lenice, vice-chair; Dan, treasurer, Brad, clerk; Lenice seconded, and it was so voted.

Motion to amend District Name decision, item 6f, from 12/11/17 meeting. The amendment is to change the spelling of Ready to Redi. Claude moved to amend the decision and Lenice seconded his motion. Claude explained that the spelling of the district name “REDI” (Rural Economic Development Infrastructure) should be consistent with the district’s paperwork.

6. Motion to approve the proposed bylaws, v3.0. Moved and seconded. Lenice moved to amend the bylaws as follows:

on the Table of Contents page, remove the repetition of the title page;
in Section 2.2: Voters, add “or a member of the governing board” to the end of the sentence;

Section 5.4: Annual and Special Meetings of the District to eliminate “special meeting” since it is included in 5.5: Special Meetings. and to add an additional bullet in position no. 4 to read, “To present an annual budget to be approved by the voters of the District.”

Susan expressed concern over non-Newbury residents on the governing board being considered voters of the district, Lenice explained that this provision only applies to board members, and Claude explained that the town attorney will review the bylaws and vet any irregularities.

Each of Lenice’s amendments were seconded and so voted.

Also re: Section 5.4, Brad moved to amend the date of the annual meeting to the fourth Monday in January. Ed Child seconded the motion, and it was so voted

Brad moved to add another bullet in the last position, “to set the date for the annual meeting,” and Lenice seconded his motion. Claude moved to amend the third bullet to include, “and to set the date for the annual meeting. Brad withdrew his motion, Lenice agreed, and Claude’s motion to amend carried.

Brad moved to approve the bylaws as amended, Jim seconded his motion, and so voted.

Claude explained that the approved by-laws will be forwarded to the selectboard who will then have 45 days to approve them. If not approved within that timeframe, they become effective by default.

Shortly before leaving the meeting, Chip requested a list of specific requests for changes in the statutes to present to the legislature before the 15th, and he proposed that the executive committee perform this task. Claude agreed and so moved, Ed seconded the motion, and it carried. Discussion included the unusual relationship between the selectboard and our REDI district.

7. Motion to approve expenditure of funds to pay entry fee for Claude Phipps and

Lenice Cicchini to attend training for Roberts Rules, sponsored by VLCT; amount not to exceed \$200. Claude clarified that both he and Lenice would reimburse the fees to the district. Brad moved and Chip seconded the article and it was so voted.

8. Discuss proposal to extend project limits to include Town of Haverhill. The benefits of NH participation were discussed. Others felt each town of the two different states

should be its own entity, it's a Vermont process not a New Hampshire one. Newbury would be happy to share information with Haverhill but would rather not include Haverhill in its project.

9. Discussion of USDA grant proposal. The grant is due February 15, 2018 and Rick explained that it needs to show that to bring high-speed broadband to Newbury will allow businesses to expand and to create more jobs. It would be helpful to obtain letters of support from our businesses. One problem is that many of our businesses are served by Charter (Spectrum), and many are satisfied with Spectrum's service. Rick added that the grant requires a Duns No. and a SAM No. Applications can be submitted by either the clerk or treasurer.

10. Other Business. There was none.

11. Next REDI meeting: January 22, 2018, Tenney Library, 4:30 - 6:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p