

Newbury REDInet, Unapproved Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2020, 4:30 PM.

1. **Call to order at 4:39 PM.**
2. **Attending:** Claude, Ed, Dan, Chip, Brad; Guests: Rick, with Linda recording.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** September 28 minutes will be accepted with the following changes: Show cancellation of meetings on 12/14 and 1/11/2021, and remove Zachary Magrid of Matrix from attendance record.
4. **Meeting of October 12:** Canceled by vote at the September 28 meeting.
5. **Treasurers report:** BIG 20 grant, Claude spoke with Michael Dehart of VT Dept. of Public Service – \$35,000 grant has been withdrawn. Claude canceled the potential loan from WRSB to pay grant. Checking account balance \$6,206.76 as of 10/24/20. Invoice from Matrix has not been received by Newbury. About \$4,000 remaining in USDA grant through September. We still owe Matrix \$7,200 for executive summary. Quarterly Report for the end of project submitted 10/13/20.
6. **Bylaws + Revised Mission:** See discussion for item 8 below.
7. **ECFiber Meetings:** Meetings on October 13 and 20. Over 5,200 subscribers, increasing about 1,200 per year, connections will continue thru winter, when hanging fiber on poles is expected to stop. Point of pride: trouble connecting customers fast enough.
 - a. **Subscriber emails:** Valley Net “welcome” emails creating false customer expectations. ECFiber hopes to hire customer service manager.
 - b. **Picture and narrative:** See email of 10/25. Brad will help write a description of Newbury village for ECFiber’s website, where every member town offers a picture and description, with history, location, road and population data. We’re bigger than other towns, much more fiber to be laid than others. Claude will send request to photographers and the list-serve.
 - c. **Equal Access Fund (ECFiber):** A fund from ECFiber to benefit customers with limited financial resources. Managed by Vermont Charitable Foundation with public donations; program lead by Holly Groschner (Corinth).
 - d. **Press Release:** FX sent press release to REDInet.
 - **ECFiber Completes 13th Mobile Home Park** -- story on conduit grant spending -- mid November. Can mention other grant funding spend progress.
 - **ECFiber's Strange Gizmo** -- story on the 'aliens have landed' car doing pole data collection in Newbury November and December.
 - **ECFiber Bond Sale Success** -- December. Will also note finalization of 2021 budget.
 - **ECFiber Creates Equal Access Fund** -- if and when established and able to accept donations. Likely early in New Year
 - **ECFiber Designs Expansion** -- Feb or March -- when we add designed lines in new towns to map
 - e. **Dept. of Public Service survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8SR9MPP>

8. Future of REDInet: Luke Birch has resigned and Linda has resigned after today's meeting minutes are complete. We are now a board of seven, with a five-member quorum. Discussion of dissolving the group or remaining open for another project. Chip explains that REDI districts must be designed for one purpose and cannot be adapted to new ones. Members agree that we'll spend the next two meetings preparing to close the REDInet district at our January 28, 2021 annual meeting. Agreed that Claude will only send ECFiber emails destined for general public to former REDInet board members.

9. Subscriber survey: Has the purpose of the survey changed?

a. **REDInet Survey:** We agreed to shut it down after last meeting. Claude wants to ensure we contact everyone from our survey results.

b. **ECFiber subscriber questionnaire.** Lots of ECFiber delegates concerned about what is said in welcome message. Messages will be changing and become more specific to the recipient. Claude wants to keep our survey active.

10. Other Business: Ask if donations to REDInet may be given to ECFiber Equity fund.

Meeting ended at 5:57 PM.

11. Next REDI meetings: The next regular meetings will be November 23 and December 28, via Google Meet, at 4:30 PM. (Meeting of Monday, November 9 was canceled by vote at the September 28 meeting). The board's final meeting will take place at the annual meeting January 25, 2021.

Submitted: Linda Ide, Meeting recorder, 10/26/2020.