

NEWBURY TELECOMMUNICATIONS RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT.

Monday, December 10, 2018

4:30 PM, Space on Main, Bradford

Newbury REDInet Meeting Minutes

Board members present: Claude, Ken, Liane, Lenice, Brad, Chip

Guests: Rick Hausman, Christine Hallquist

Meeting called to order 4:33 PM

1. Updates to Agenda:

2. Note taker: Chip 12/10, (Ken 12/27, Lenice 1/14, Nate 1/28, Liane 2/11, Ed 2/25)

3. Approval of Minutes: (November 26, 2018)

4. Treasurers Report:

None

5. Clerk's Report: Special meeting dates for 2019

Motion made by Chip, 2nd by Liane to accept the meeting schedule for 2019 as proposed. Motion passed.

6. Open Discussion with Christine Hallquist:

Discussion focused on Ms Hallquist's proposal that a statewide fiber-to -the-home infrastructure should be considered a public good, and therefore should be deployed by the electric utilities serving the state as part of their "obligation to serve." Utilities would hang, light and maintain the fiber network. ISP's would pay utilities a tariff to use bandwidth. Because utilities are a regulated monopoly the rates charged to ISP's would be set by the PUC at the lowest amount necessary to achieve the utilities' guaranteed return on capital investment (8.9%).

Lengthy discussion of details was had, including existing examples (60 municipalities around the country); economics of elec. utility V telecom company; implementation; financing; regulation; definition of "obligation to serve" (Hallquist suggests minimum of 100 Mbps sym.); benefits to elec. utility; and political challenges.

Hallquist is working with legislators to have a proposal to accomplish this drafted. Believes it will be a two year process.

REDInet board members felt this was an interesting and promising idea that has potential to accomplish our goals in Newbury and in rural areas statewide, but also feel that we should continue to move ahead with our own initiative, as a statewide fiber utility seems years away, at best.

Agenda items 7 b,c,d,and e; 8; 9; 11; and 12 were postponed because the hour was getting late

7. Sub-Committee Reports:

a. Contract Generation and Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI): Revision of contract, meeting with Jeff Austin CCI

Chip reported that he has contacted Jeff Austin by email on two occasions to set up a meeting, but has not gotten a response. He will try by phone.

b. Technology:

c. Finance:

d. Publicity:

e. Proposed amended Statute: sub committee

8. Document of Intent: Import Grant wording into DoI? Strip cross outs, Deliver to Brent Long?

9. Phone meeting; Agency of Commerce and Community Development:
ThinkVermont grant

10. Green Mountain Power, contacts? (Nate)

Decided that we are now ready to meet with Brian Otley at Green Mountain Power to discuss possible partnership with them. Nate will try to set up a meeting.

Also decided that we will meet with CCI and GMP before determining whether to accept ThinkVermont grant funding, if it is awarded to us.

11. Matt Dunne (Chip)

12. Other Business:

Meeting adjourned 6:32

13. Next REDI meeting: December 27, 2018, Thursday, Space on Main, 4:30 PM

Submitted: Chip Conquest 12/12/18