

# NEWBURY TELECOMMUNICATIONS RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT.

Monday, June 11, 2018

4:30 PM, Tenney Library, Newbury Village

## Newbury REDInet Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Claude Phipps at 4:50 PM.

Present were Claude Phipps, Nate Dudenhoeffer, Lenice Cicchini, Brad Vietje, Edward Childs (board members) and Rick Hausman (guest).

Please see below the minutes as organized by agenda.

### **1. Updates to Agenda:**

No updates

### **2. Note taker: Ed 6/11**

Ed Childs took notes

### **3. Approval of Minutes:** (May 14, 2018) minutes are on *Newbury REDI.net*

Claude proposed 3 changes. 1. The next meeting was agreed to be 6/11 and we canceled the Memorial Day meeting. 2. We agreed to a \$50 thank you gift to Laurie. 3. Minutes were submitted by Jim. Minutes were accepted as amended with these three changes.

### **4. Treasurers Report:** Funds on hand, bills paid, funds received

In Dan's absence, Claude reported that the current bank balance is \$3,300.

### **5. Clerk's Report:** Volunteer MOU, survey reports, thank you letters,

Brad noted that he needed to follow up with Jim on the volunteer MOU.

### **6. Sub-Committee Reports:**

#### **a. Administration of Grant:**

A clarification of the role of this sub-committee:

- Manage contract between CCI and the Town of Newbury.
- Work on business plan
- Obtain legal advice as needed

- Members: Chip, Brad and Lenice

**b. Contract Generation and Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI):**

Claude had the following suggestion: I think it would be worth brainstorming what other information we need to currently be gathering to complement the Consolidated survey, in order that we can fully understand some potential cost structures once we have those survey results and begin to negotiate an operating contract. Members: Claude, Nate, Ed.

**c. Technology:** Discussion of proposed speeds, Liane proposal, EC Fiber.

There was a brief discussion of the FCC report which Liane submitted to the Google Group June 10.

**d. Finance:** (Rick & Laurie) progress on grant; USDA funding, Loans & Pilot program (Eric Law)

USDA informed us that the grant application had been accepted. No information as to the time when the grant will be announced. In a recent post to GG by Claude, we now expect to hear by the beginning of July 2018.

Claude reported contact with Eric Law (USDA) regarding the Loans & Pilot Program (different from the grant).

**e. Publicity:**

No discussion.

**f. Proposed amended Statute.**

Existing amendment was stuck in committee and is not likely to move forward this session.

**g. Web site:** (Jim) Pictures, Minutes and agendas from town. Only since 10/16/2017?

Claude moved that a banner be made for the August 11 West Newbury event for a cost not to exceed \$100. (xxx seconded). Unanimously approved. Lenice will secure involvement in the parade.

There was some discussion around having a link to a speed test site on the main page of the web site.

**7. Customer surveys:** Electronic version of survey

No discussion.

**8. Finance conference Randolph:** Finance conference in Randolph (5/17/18) with Rick.

Sponsored by Randolph Area Community Development Corp.

Panel discussion, good stories and words of wisdom:

“You have to be liquid and learn as you grow”

“Easy money is not always the best/ right money”

“Maintain control of your business”

Tyler McNaney: 3D materials

Joe & Rebecca Pimentel: Pay loan by the chicken

Good networking: Monique Priestley was present, dropped out of USDA grant.

CJ was present, taped program, ECFIBER literature, still has health issues.

*Slow Money* might be good source of funding of first phase. (Rick)

#### **9. Next steps, Discussion of schedule: USDA Grant, web site, contract with FairPoint.**

Grant award 6/30, Deliverables defined by REDI net 6/30, Negotiate deliverables with CCI July & August 2018.

Claude has spoken to Ross Heart, he is a small business advisor for Vermont Small Business Development Corp. He works out of St Johnsbury, and attended Blue Mt Union in his youth. His services are free. He would like to attend our 6/25/18 meeting. His experiences in in finance and business plans.

#### **10. Board members: (Susan, Jim);**

Replacements? Claude has been asking around. Claude has asked Ken Rower if he is interested; he plans to attend the 6/25 meeting. And I am trying to contact Jeremy Wheeler and /or his wife Marin (West Newbury); Chelsea Lyme or Andrea Franklin, Upper Valley Roasters; “are excited about the prospect but are too stretched to offer time”.

Other possible candidates were mentioned. Individual board members will follow up.

#### **11. Other Business:**

#### **12. Next REDI meeting: June 25, 2018, Tenney Library, 4:30 - 6:30 PM**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Submitted by Ed Childs, June 20, 2018