

NEWBURY TELECOMMUNICATIONS RURAL Economic DEVELOPMENT INFRASTRUCTURE DISTRICT

DRAFT MINUTES Meeting Thursday, December 27, 2018 at Space on
Main, Bradford

Meeting called to order at 4:45 by Claude Phipps

Present: Lenice Cecchini, Brad Vietje, Chip Conquest, Claude Phipps, Ken
Rower, Liane Allen, Dan Burwinkel (after 4:53)

Minutes by Ken, amended by Claude

1. Updates to Agenda None.

2. Note takers Lenice 1/14, Nate 1/28, Liane 2/11, Ed 2/25, Chip 3/11

3. Approval of Minutes for meeting December 10, 2018. Minutes accepted as amended
by adding Edward Child's name to the Present list.

4. Treasurers Report Dan Burwinkel has resigned as treasurer. Role must be filled by
time of annual meeting. Look outside the committee, or must we have a board member?
Bylaws allow outside help? They are silent on the question. No resolution. (Post-meeting
note by Claude: Bylaws say officers must be board members.)

5. Clerk's Report

a. Annual Report to the Town: Brad Vietje reports it's done, ready to send
to Town Clerk Mary Collins. Warning for Newbury Redinet (NR) annual
meeting must be posted by tomorrow (December 28). Claude would like extra
copies available at the annual meeting and posted elsewhere such as at the
Tenney Library.

b. Amendments to the By Laws Review of changes. Statute requires a
category of At-Large board members. We might use this category to
acknowledge non-members who participate actively, such as Rick Hausman.
Statute and bylaws specifies that those who vote at a Redinet annual
meeting are members of Redinet, not town voters.

MOTION passed that we will not seek further amendments to our statute.

c. Annual meeting plans, Agenda, posting

6. Future Meeting Location: Space on Main (Monique Priestly) continues to offer
meeting room at no charge for time being. (Normal fee \$66 for 1.5 hours.) Nate

Dudenhoeffer may provide equipment for Redinet's annual meeting at the Tenney Library in Newbury.

7. Discussion with Christine Hallquist at December 10 Meeting (Review and comment) Do we change our model to reflect the centralized approach that CH plans to lobby for? Brief discussion of case studies and website provided by CH. Dan points out that he had already cited the source of the studies cited by CH. Claude thinks we should not change the NR model as a result of the Hallquist visit but that we do need to accomplish the essential step of choosing an incumbent utility. Consolidated and Green Mountain Power remain the choices as Washington Electric Coop has a minor geographical part, Topsham Telephone an even smaller one, of our service area. (Newbury could perhaps help Corinth in its dealings with Washington Electric.) Claude does not want to wait for the Vermont Public Utility Commission to order utilities to lash on fiber-optic cables statewide. Chip agrees and (with his legislative experience) predicts that it would be four years anyway before that could happen, so we shouldn't wait. As well, utilities are likely to balk at new obligations. Claude points out that in some cases fiber is in place but not in use or full use. Liane cites Midwest examples. Dan says that locally there's fiber along rail lines as well as along US Routes 5, 302 and perhaps Vermont 25.

But even where fiber runs along roads, Claude remarks, there are not fiber drops to houses. Only cable customers receive drops to houses.

Clay Purvis and VOI protocol: Clay has said that the regulations do not specify **copper or fiber** to the home. I do not understand why, but Clay is concerned about Voice Over Internet Protocol issues. Side discussion of VOIP (Dan).

8. Upcoming meetings:

a. *Consolidated Communications meeting* on 01/07/2019 with Jeff Austin in White River Junction. What do we send? Link to Christine Hallquist case studies. DOI, grant app? Claude, who envisions NR supplying the fiber, proposes that a take rate of 10 customers per mile will help CCI with their change from copper to fiber (inevitable as he sees it). Issues with overlashing on their copper? Chip points out that we are going to ask them to carry fiber however they choose, it's their corporate decision not ours. General consensus that NR goes to this meeting being as open as possible about its intentions and thinking rather than with any calculated negotiating tactics. Thus do we send our edited Document of Intent in advance? Yes, and Claude would add engineering details of the grant application. Chip hopes that we come out of the meeting with agreement on the bedrock issues, otherwise we need to find another partner. All of what goes to CCI should first circulate in advance to the four NR reps who will attend .

Chip, Rick, Nate, and Claude will meet before the meeting with CCI. Discuss carpool, agenda, and leadership.

b. *Washington Electric Coop* on 01/24/2019. This event being handled by a group from Corinth, we are going along as observers, so no prep.

c. *Green Mountain Power*, Brian Otley. Nate to arrange.

9. Sub-Committee Reports

a Contract Generation and Partnership with Consolidated Communications (CCI)

b Technology

c Finance *ThinkVermont grant*. Contact Ted Brady and Brett Long. AoCCD, find out scheduling of grant, etc. Anything new with USDA funding? Northern Borders Regional Commission? Chip says Two Rivers Ottaquechee Regional Planning Commission is willing to work with us on grants. Claude thinks once we have a partner, we can get moving past the "smoke."

d Publicity

e Proposed amended Statute MOTION approved 5b above.

f VT Telecommunications Plan

10. Document of Intent Claude proposes cleaning up the document, Lenice produces an already cleaned-up draft on her computer. Brett Long's response to the DOI that we should provide more details for a potential lender is confusing because that isn't the purpose of the document. Not a business model. It's to be published on the Website anyway, right? Dan asks. Everyone supports posting the document.

11. Phone meeting Agency of Commerce and Community Development

ThinkVermont grant.

We have discussed this, we will not authorize \$7500 until we have a partner, and if we don't then we will withdraw our request (Claude).

12. Matt Dunne (Chip)

13. Cohase Chamber meeting January 22 at Alumni Hall in Haverhill Corner, N. H. Monique Preistly will be named Citizen of the Year and Copeland Furniture as Business of the Year. Cocktails at 5:45. Dinner optional. Reservations on Cohase website.

14. Other Business None.

15. Next REDI meeting Monday, January 14, 2018, Space on Main, 4:30 PM

Meeting Adjourned 5:58PM.

Submitted: Ken Rower

