

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2022

Town Name	Representative Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A	2 <sup>nd</sup> Alternate Name	Voting = V Present = P Absent = A
Arlington	Cynthia Browning	V	Jamie Paustian	A		
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreuil	A	Beth Hardesty	P
Dorset	Mike Chase	A	Jim Salsgiver	A	Bob Meszaros	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	V		
Londonderry	John Hankin	V	James Wilbur	P		
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	V	Kathleen James	A		
Peru	Ben Foltz	A	Peter Bradford	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	V	Karlan Eberhardt	P		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	A	Arlene Bentley	A
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	P
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	P	James Salerno	A
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	V				
Woodford						

Also present: Jonathan Cooper and Callie Fishburn (BCRC), Al Bashevkin (treasurer)

1. Call to order  
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:03PM.
2. Roll call  
Callie Fishburn took role. A quorum of the board was present.
3. Conflict of interest  
None
4. Additions to or deletions from the agenda [1 V.S.A. § 312]  
None
5. Review and approval of draft minutes: [May 11, 2022 and May 25, 2022](#)  
Motion to approve both sets of minutes by Tim Scoggins, seconded by Sheila Kearns.  
Passed unanimously.

6. Public comments  
None

7. Announcements  
None

8. Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers

Sheila Kearns moved to nominate candidates for the position of chair. Tim Scoggins nominated Eric Hatch as chair of the CUD. Motion to elect Eric Hatch as chair of the CUD passed unanimously with one abstention (EH).

Sheila Kearns moved to accept nominations for the position of vice chair. Eric Hatch nominated Michael Corey to serve as vice chair for another term. Motion passed unanimously.

Eric Hatch moved to accept nominations for clerk and nominated Sheila Kearns for the position. Motion passed unanimously with one abstention (SK).

9. Update on discussions with CCI and VCBB

The CUD and CCI have submitted their eligibility application to the VCBB staff and have been given approval to submit the full application.

The full application will ask for \$8.9 million to cover underserved and unserved addresses and construction will primarily take place in 2023.

Review of 3-Phase CCI Buildout:

**Phase 1:** Funded by CCI through RDOF and will cover Bennington, Woodford, Glastenbury, a small part of Pownal, and most of Shaftsbury. Expected to be finished by the end of the year. Work has already begun and CCI is ahead of schedule. CCI and the CUD held a launch event with the press a few weeks ago in Shaftsbury.

**Phase 2A:** Will involve laying fiber owned and financed by the CUD through the VCBB Act 71 Construction Grant. This phase will cover 2000 underserved or unserved addresses.

**Phase 2B:** Fiber rollout to served addresses (overbuild), and part of CCI's RDOF territories. Not financed by the VCBB grant.

**Phase 3:** Buildout to the "hardest 100" addresses, now the "hardest 20". Executive officers are currently vetting the list with the help of town representatives.

Outstanding items for the full Act 71 grant application:

Universal service plan

Finalized contract with CCI – the CUD is working on this with CCI now and will soon send the contract for legal review. Once finalized, it will need to be approved by the full governing board and an emergency meeting may be necessary in the near future.

## 10. Other business

Fred Schwacke raised several questions about Fidium pertaining to cost accommodations and the CUD's relationship with CCI:

Lower income households can apply to the federal program to get up to \$30 of their monthly internet bill. CCI will cover equipment costs, extend its network into areas they hadn't planned to, and is covering 500 unserved addresses at their cost in Phase 1. CCI is also expediting construction for its RDOF commitments and covering drop costs. CCI has uniform statewide pricing which is publicly available information. CCI will be fully responsible for customer service and maintenance issues for the network.

Motion to adjourn by Sheila Kearns, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Passed unanimously.  
Meeting adjourned at 6:58PM.