

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2023

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

Also present: Callie Fishburn and Jonathan Cooper (BCRC), Pam Mackenzie and Sydney Atkins (Mac Mountain)

1. Call to order
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.
2. Roll call
Callie Fishburn called roll. A quorum of the board was not 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 from February 8, 2023
Postponed due to lack of quorum

6. Public comments

None

7. Presentation from Mac Mountain

Sydney Atkins and Pam Mackenzie from [Mac Mountain](#) discussed their company's plan to expand cell service in Vermont through the installation of small cell towers. (See one-pager attached to these minutes).

8. Announcements

Emails were sent out to state representatives ahead of Town Meeting Day with their territory's Phase 2 address list. People who are curious about their eligibility should be directed to the Fidium website where they can enter their address.

Tim Scoggins asked about the 99.7% of fiber coverage mentioned in the email to state representatives. This number represents the percentage of unserved and underserved addresses (according to the state definition) that will be covered. Scoggins suggested that the CUD find out how much of its territory will be covered by fiber. This number could be useful for promotional and economic development purposes.

9. Update on Act 71 Construction Grant and Review of Phases

Discussion postponed until next meeting

10. Other Business

None



Presented By:

Mac Mountain Team

www.macmtn.com

Wireless Proposal

2023



A Comprehensive Wireless Solution

Mac Mountain aims to solve the issue of poor cell phone service in the State of Vermont. We propose a public-private partnership to enhance connectivity in unserved and underserved communities. Through collaboration, we believe our plan is engineered to succeed, designed to optimize resource and coverage, and that Mac Mountain is ideally positioned to execute.

Our Solution

- Small Cell Towers (<50ft In height)
- Carrier Neutral Radio Equipment
- Citizen Broadband Radio System (CBRS) Wireless Network (Create a Vermont Network)
- Emergency Services Prioritization
- Community Data compiled from Census, Traffic Data, Crash Data, Economic Contribution Data, plus FCC and Drive Test Mapping
- Mac Mountain will design, build, own, and maintain pole sites for decades to come
- We collaborate with CUD's and local providers to collectively benefit from our technology

Pilot Communities

- Two Communities:
(2) Sites In S. Woodstock & (1) Site In Pomfret
- Privately Funded by Mac Mountain
- Pending Carrier participation, 248A permitting set to begin within the month of February '23
- Tracking to break ground Spring/Early summer 2023
- Additional sites already secured with signed Option Agreements

Unique Advantages

- Effective in complex topography
- Provides Wireless Service on existing phones
- Lower cost to entice carriers to participate
- Private Network with extensive capacity allows for creation of a 'Vermont Network' as well as expanded opportunities for CUDs
- Extensive Emergency Services Network Expansion
- Our data analytics allow us to better identify and address areas of need within our State
- Collaboration is the only way we will get this done!

Our ASK!

- **The State of Vermont Funds Equipment and CapEx**
 - For 20-30 unserved and underserved Communities similar to Pilot = \$10m (~100 poles)
- *We are working to determine what comprehensive coverage for VT will cost (approx. \$295k / community)
- **Help us entice major carriers to fulfill their commitment to rural communities by providing access to hand-off and Roam to/on our network**
- **State of VT covers ongoing Operating Expenditures**
 - OpEx for 20-30 Communities = \$4.6m (Approximately \$150k-250k / community)

Carrier Update
January 16-20th

File 248A
Permitting
120 Days

Break Ground
POC
May/June '23

FCC & Drive
Map Fleshout
Ongoing

Use Pilot as
Proxy
Ongoing

Break Ground
Statewide
Project
Spring '24

Complete
Statewide
Project
2-5 yrs