

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

June 14, 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	V	James Wilbur	A		
Manchester	Terrence Dorsey	A	Kathleen James	A		
Peru	Ben Foltz	A	Peter Bradford	A		
Pownal	Caitlin Randall	V	Karlan Eberhardt	A		
Rupert	Bill Meyer	V	Jed Rubin	P	Arlene Bentley	P
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	A
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	A	Michael Corey	V		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

Also present: Jonathan Cooper (BCRC)

1. Call to order
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.
2. Roll call
Jonathan Cooper 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 May 10, 2023
Postponed due to lack of quorum

6. Public comments

None

7. Announcements

None

8. Organizational Meeting/Election of Officers

Postponed due to lack of quorum

9. Act 71 Grant & Construction Updates

The CUD website has been updated with the construction schedule and a map showing wire center coverage in the CUD territory. CCI often does pre-construction work so there may be activity in towns where construction hasn't officially started yet. Once construction starts, it takes approximately 3-5 months until service is expected to be available. CCI is currently on schedule with all construction.

One of the challenges CCI experienced during Phase 1 was installation at multi-unit dwellings which often required coordinating with a landlord. If any CUD representatives know of any multi-unit dwellings or condo associations in their town where people are interested in getting Fidium, please let the CUD officers know and they can flag those locations with CCI.

The CUD is in compliance with all reporting requirements and there have been several meetings between the CUD, CCI, and VCBB to discuss the field inspection process. A celebration of Phase 2 is tentatively planned for early August.

10. Other Business

Andrew McKeever received some questions about at a recent select board meeting about how people in rural areas of the town can get Fidium. If they are connected to the electrical grid and have telephone wires running by their house, they are likely to be eligible for service. The best way to request service is to go to the Fidium website and pre-order. The address input system can sometimes be tricky, so anyone with questions about their eligibility can reach out to any of the CUD officers, or Jonathan or Callie to get confirmation.

The VCBB is developing a 5-year digital equity plan to qualify for funding from the Broadband Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) and they are seeking public input via listening sessions and a Request for Input form. More information about the BEAD program and opportunities for engagement is available on the VCBB website: [Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment \(BEAD\) Program and Digital Equity Act | Department of Public Service \(vermont.gov\)](#)

Motion to adjourn by Bill Meyer, seconded by Andrew McKeever. Passed unanimously.