

Southern Vermont Communications Union District

Draft Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2023

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	A	Jamie Paustian	A		
Bennington	Eric Hatch	V	Ron Dubreuil	A	Beth Hardesty	A
Dorset	Mike Chase	A	Jim Salsgiver	V	Bob Meszaros	A
Landgrove	Jim Swartzentruber	A	Susan Lenox	A		
Londonderry	John Hankin	V	James Wilbur	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	V	Arlene Bentley	A
Sandgate	Sheila Kearns	V	Betsy Rathbun-Gunn	A	Logan Weurslin	P
Shaftsbury	Tim Scoggins	V	Michael Corey	P		
Sunderland	Andrew McKeever	V				
Winhall	Fred Schwacke	A				
Woodford						

Also present: Callie Fishburn (BCRC)

1. Call to order  
The chair called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.
2. Roll call  
Callie Fishburn called roll. 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 from May 10, and June 14th, 2023  
*Motion to approve both sets of minutes as circulated by Tim Scoggins, seconded by Terence Dorsey. Passed unanimously.*

6. Public comments  
None

7. Announcements

Tim Scoggins reviewed the CUD's universal service plan and reported that CCI will pass approximately 20,000 households which means Bennington County will be 95% covered by fiber at the conclusion of the build.

8. Organizational Meeting/Election of Officers

*Tim Scoggins nominated the current slate of officers, Eric Hatch as chair, Michael Corey as Vice Chair, and Sheila Kearns as secretary, to continue their roles. Tim Scoggins made a motion to vote on the slate, seconded by John Hankin. Motion passed unanimously. The slate was confirmed via unanimous vote.*

9. Act 71 Grant & Construction Updates

Eric Hatch shared an update on build completion by wire center. *Numbers as of the week of 7/3/23*

- Bennington WC: Completed in Phase 1
- South Londonderry WC: 162 miles, 94% complete
- Manchester WC: 152 miles, 61% complete
- Dorset WC: 42 miles, 87% complete
- Stratton WC: 67 miles, 91% complete
- Arlington WC: 111 miles, 40% complete
- Rupert WC: 40 miles, 0% complete
- Pownal WC: 63 miles, 0% complete

Construction in Pownal and Rupert will begin soon. Tree trimming and box installation may begin in these towns before construction actually starts.

The wire center map and build schedule are available on the home page of the CUD website: [sovtcud.net](http://sovtcud.net). The CUD website is a great resource with links to the Fidium Fiber pre-order page, Affordable Connectivity Program, and all past governing board meeting minutes.

The next Act 71 quarterly grant report is due soon. Jonathan Cooper and Callie Fishburn are working with CCI to get that completed. The narrative report will be sent to board members once complete.

10. Other Business

Jim Salsgiver asked about the BEAD program (Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment) and its relevance to the SoVT CUD. BEAD funds may help the CUD cover its Phase 3 addresses which are the “hardest 17”. VCBB has just finished a draft of their 5-year plan for using BEAD funds which will be circulated for input shortly.

Sheila Kearns reported that she is working with the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington to hold an outreach program about the Affordable Connectivity Program and help people sign up. Similar events could be held with some of the other libraries around the county.

On August 8<sup>th</sup> there is a Phase 2 kickoff planned in the South Londonderry area. Senator Welch has committed to attending. This is now more tentative due to the recent flooding.

*Motion to adjourn by Andrew McKeever, seconded by Tim Scoggins. Passed unanimously.*