Addison County Communications Union District
Dba Maple Broadband

Monthly Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2020
5:00 p.m. – 6:30p.m.
VIA ZOOM
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89422191775?pwd=ZlJlYlVGSEhEVm41UUhOSHFpS2YzUT09

Meeting ID: 894 2219 1775
Passcode: 571606
Join by phone: 1 (646) 558-8656

Steve Huffaker, Chair of the Addison County Communications Union District ("ACCUD") welcomed the representatives of the member towns and called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

1. **Welcome/Introductions/Roll Call**

The following people were present:

Carl Siebecker, Delegate from Shoreham;
Dan Sonneborn, Delegate from Bristol;
Nancy Cornell, Delegate from Starksboro;
Ross Conrad, Delegate from Middlebury;
Steve Huffaker, Delegate from Ferrisburgh;
Andrew Martin, Delegate from Waltham;
John McNerney, Alternate from Monkton;
Andy Hooper, Alternate Middlebury;
Hugh McLaughlin, Alternate Middlebury;
Billy Sneed, Delegate Ripton:
Amey Ryan, Delegate Salisbury;
J. Butterworth, Alternate Lincoln;
Robyn King, Ferrisburgh;

Adam Lougee, Clerk, non-member representing Addison County Regional Planning Commission ("ACRPC").

Prior to moving into the agenda Steve acknowledged the unrest in the nation's capital. He noted that we had a quorum for the meeting, but also acknowledged that other delegates may have chosen not to attend to monitor events in Washington. He asked the group whether they wanted to move forward with the meeting. All present noted that they did. Steve thanked them for their opinion.

2. **Agenda Approval.** Steve asked for additions or changes to the agenda. **Hearing no changes, Nancy Cornell moved the agenda. Billy Sneed seconded the motion, which passed without dissent.**

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3. **<u>Adoption of December Meeting minutes</u>**: The minutes were posted to the website and distributed just prior to the meeting. Ross Conrad **moved to adopt the minutes. Carl Siebecker seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.**

4. **<u>Executive Committee Report for December:</u>** Steve noted that the Executive Committee had worked hard on the Board's behalf during the month of December. He listed the following activities and accomplishments:

   a. Maple Broadband's attorneys reviewed all of the enabling documentation for Maple Broadband and recognized it as a validly formed, single purpose communications union district of the State of Vermont.

   b. The board purchased liability insurance and Directors and Officers Insurance covering activities of individuals working on behalf of Maple Broadband;

   c. Created and deployed Wi-Fi hotspot signs;

   d. Purchased Front Porch Forum advertising for next year;

   e. Launched Maple Broadband's Outreach tool. Steve also emphasized that any board member desiring to help Maple Broadband in additional capacities should go to the Outreach tool and sign up for volunteer opportunities;

   f. Issued one flyer announcing our formation. Maple Broadband will also begin a newsletter shortly and will send out our main informational piece as soon as our website goes live. Nancy reminded board members that we need to be smart about announcing our presence, but not overpromising on what we can deliver. The network will take time to build. Andrew Martin also reminded people to get the annual report to their selectboards as soon as possible.

5. **Operator/partner Interviews**: Steve noted that he had scheduled a number of interviews with potential operators/partners for the remainder of the month. The interviews will be conducted in executive session in order to keep competitive information between potential rivals confidential. However, Steve will post written summaries of the interviews on the website so this group knows about the Executive Committee's undertakings on its behalf.

6. **<u>New Addison County Members</u>**: Steve reported that ACCUD membership remained at 16. He had reached out again to the remaining towns in the region.

7. **<u>Treasurer's Report.</u>** Arabella noted Maple Broadband had a fund balance of $86,000. She expects that to diminish to about $26,000 after all the CARES funding payments issued last week have been cashed.

10. **<u>Clerk's Report:</u>** Adam asked Steve to speak about our upcoming fund-raising. Steve noted that Maple Broadband intends to pursue Vermont Economic Development Funding to build infrastructure. In order to access the VEDA funding Maple Broadband will need to raise local match. Its first endeavor to raise local funding will be its pitch to the Middlebury Selectboard on January 12th to ask for support from Middlebury's Community Block Grant funding to leverage a portion of the VEDA funds.

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11. **<u>Other Business:</u>** None.

12. **<u>Future Meeting Schedule.</u> February 3rd, 2021.**

13. <u>Adjourn</u> – Nancy Cornell moved to adjourn and the members voted unanimously to adjourn at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adam Lougee, Clerk

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