

**LAMOILLE FIBERNET COMMUNICATIONS UNION DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING AND GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
January 27, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.
MINUTES**

Chart of Actions

Who	What	Status
Lea K.	Follow up on the USDA grant application within a week	To do
Board members	Continue signing up for CUD Accelerator workshops	Ongoing
Board members	Send LFCUD Resolution to nominate delegates to Town Officials	To do

Town Representatives and Alternates Attending (V=present and voting; P=present)

Town	P/V	Representative	P/V	Alternate	P/V	Alternate
Cambridge	V	Tim Humphrey	P	Sam Lotto	-	-
Hyde Park	V	Michael Rooney	-	Jack Wool	P	Carol Fano
Johnson	V	Charlotte Reber	P	Doug Molde	P	Paul Warden
Morristown	V	Jane Campbell	P	John Meyer	-	Carl Fortune
Waterville	V	Jeff Tilton	P	Lucy Rogers	-	-
Belvidere	P	Carol Caldwell Edmonds	V	Kipp Verner	-	-
Eden	V	Liza Jones	-	Stephanie Van Blunk	-	-
Stowe	V	Stephen Friedman	-	Chris Foran	P	Scott Weathers

Also attending

Larry Lackey (Treasurer), Lea Kilvadyova (Clerk), Beth Foy (potential Johnson Alternate Board Member)

Call to order, Changes to the agenda, Public Comment

Call to order by Michael Rooney @ 7:01 pm.

Stephen Friedman asked to add a discussion about the Stowe beta testing Starlink group.

No public comment.

Review of Lamoille FiberNet's Voting Procedures

Lea Kilvadyova talked about the importance of having both primary representatives and alternates for each town actively participate in LFCUD matters to help the organization move forward. Lea reminded that only one representative from each town is allowed to vote at Board meetings.

Consent Agenda

Lucy Rogers made a motion to accept the consent agenda items Kipp Verner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was passed.

Appoint Chair of Vendor Task Force

Lea Kilvadyova shared a recommendations made @ Executive Meeting to nominate Larry Lackey for the task force Chair position and for him to recommend task force members.

Jane Campbell made a motion to nominate Larry Lackey to be appointed as the “Chair of Vendor Task Force”. Jeff Tilton seconded the motion.

Michael Rooney inquired as to whether anyone else on the Board was interested in the chair position. Nobody expressed an interest or commented following his inquiry so the motion on the table continued.

All voted in favor and the motion was passed as initially motioned by Jane Campbell.

Clerk Position Description Review

Jane Campbell made a motion to accept the Clerk Position Description as proposed. Kipp Verner seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was passed.

Jane Campbell explained what has been done to find an interested candidate to step into the role as “Clerk” as described in the “Lamoille Fibernet Communications Union District Clerk Position Responsibilities”. Lea Kilvadyova proposed that unless we find a Clerk ready and available to fulfil all tasks described in the Clerk Position Description, Lea Kilvadyova will stay on as Clerk and fulfil the role with the support of volunteer minute takers from the Board. Liza Jones volunteered to take Board minutes. Charlotte Reber and Jack Wool have been taking M&C and Tech Committee minutes. We would still need a minute taker for the Executive Committee.

Lea Kilvadyova asked whether any of the Board members are interested in taking the Executive Committee minutes.

Jeff Tilton then offered to step into the role of minute taker for the Executive Committee meetings so long as he can participate in the meetings. If he cannot be at a meeting, he will need someone else to step in. Members confirmed they would help out in order to make it work.

Selectboard Appointments to LFCUD and Officer Election

Discussion around the need for LFCUD Board members (primary and alternates) to be appointed by Town Selectboards as per the State Statutes by the end of April. Appointments are for one year.

Officer Election must happen on the 2nd Monday in May @ the time of the annual organizational meeting.

Doug Molde explained what he has been doing to ensure Johnson has an alternate (Beth Foy in attendance for as a result).

CUD Accelerator Sign-ups Report

Carol Caldwell Edmonds has been coordinating the attendees for each workshop and ensuring they are signed up as requested. Everyone is welcome to participate in the first workshop on Mon 2/1/2021. For the rest of the workshops, participation is limited to four members per CUD. Currently, some are full and some still have room for one or two more attendees. Workshops will be recorded and made available to Board members.

Sam Lotto joined the meeting at 7:56.

Legislative Update

Lucy Rogers (State Rep. for Waterville & Cambridge) shared a Legislative update. The House Energy and Technology Committee she serves on heard many broadband-related testimonies including from CUDs, Consolidated Communications, VEDA, Valkeynet and VT Tech. VT Tech has created a line worker certification program to support an increased need for workforce that can hang fiber and maintain fiber optic networks. The Committee is drafting a new broadband bill and Lucy Rogers encouraged people to provide feedback. The bill is expected to be completed in 3-4 weeks.

USDA Grant Application Update

Lea Kilvadyova is currently waiting for a confirmation that we are eligible to apply for the USDA grant focused on broadband. In the event we are, she proposes the grant is submitted by LCPC to support the operations and administration of the CUD. To be competitive, she asked that Board members help secure commitment letters from local businesses to support our request.

Starlink Beta Testing Group in Stowe

Stephen Friedman said that members of the Stowe community have signed up to beta-test the Starlink internet. Members who already installed the equipment are content with the download and upload speeds. Stephen said that Starlink may be an option for locations that are hard to reach with fiber.

Executive Session

Executive Session was postponed for later due to time constraints and needing to adjourn for tonight.

Adjourn

Jeff Tilton made a motion to adjourn. Jane Campbell seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion was passed to adjourn evening. Meeting adjourned @ 8:29 pm.