



CVFiber Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

**Virtual meeting via gotomeeting.com
Thursday, April 22, 2021 5 p.m.**

Present: Committee members Phil Cecchini (Barre Town, alt. del.), Allen Gilbert (Worcester), John Morris (Marshfield), Ray Pelletier (Northfield), and Siobhan Perricone (Orange); joining at 5:25 p.m., John Russell (Worcester, alt. del.).

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by the chair, Gilbert.

Gilbert apologized that he had inadvertently left off “Changes to the agenda” from the agenda. He said Pelletier had asked that we discuss the email Gilbert had sent earlier in the day to board members regarding identifying people attending virtual CVFiber meetings. Gilbert also wanted a brief discussion about policies the committee may have begun drafting over the past three years but hadn’t completed, or policies that had been drafted and recommended to the board but for which there were no records of board action on them. These two items will be taken up under “Other business,” he said.

Public comment. There was none.

Approval of minutes. The draft minutes of the June 4, 2019 Policy Committee meeting were approved unanimously, as were the minutes of the Sept. 16, 2020, Oct. 7, 2020, and Dec. 7, 2020 meetings. Gilbert will forward them to Jeremy Matt (clerk) and to Chuck Burt (for posting on CVFiber’s website).

Addition to CVFiber Rules of Procedure concerning appointment of committee chairs. Gilbert explained the draft he had written on the issue of appointment of

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committee chairs, which had come up at the most recent board meeting and been referred to the Policy Committee. He outlined the contents of his draft. He also noted he felt the provisions needn't be a separate new policy, but rather an addition to the existing CVFiber Rules of Procedure. Pelletier moved and Siobhan seconded approval of the draft. Discussion ensued. Two amendments were suggested, both to paragraph 4 of the document: (1) that "and as its first order of business" be added after "At the new committee's first meeting", and (2) that "board member" replace "person." The amendments were accepted by Pelletier and Siobhan, and the amended document was approved. The full language of the document, which will be recommended to the board, is attached at the end of these minutes as Attachment 1.

Other business. Gilbert asked if any of the committee members knew of any outstanding policies that needed to move forward; he noted that a Purchasing Policy is supposed to be in place but that no one can find a copy, and that a draft for a Grants Policy had been started but there's no record it was completed and approved by the board. Others could offer no additional information; Gilbert said he will ask Board Chair Jeremy Hansen how best to proceed. Gilbert also asked about the "community support standards" Perricone was reported in the 6-4-19 committee minutes to be working on. Perricone explained this was an idea she felt strongly about – that CVFiber should have broad principles that drive its work (such as equity and sensitivity to people's needs and means). Pelletier shared a document he has been working on with the working title "CUDs: Availability Affordability Accessibility Accountability." Written as a call to invest in CUDs, Pelletier's document mentions a number of the issues Siobhan had said she thought important for us to consider and use as guides to how we do business. Gilbert suggested committee members think about the issues that Perricone and Pelletier raised and discuss them further at a future meeting. There was general consensus this was important to do. A copy of Pelletier's "CUDs: 4 A's" document is attached at the end of these minutes as Attachment 2; Pelletier has submitted this document to the Vermont Senate Finance Committee for its consideration during discussions of H. 360, the broadband expansion bill the committee is now reviewing.

Also under other business, Gilbert talked briefly about his email to board members concerning identifying guests at board and committee meetings, and what's required by the state's Open Meetings law. He said he sent the email simply to provide basic information so we're informed on the issue. A question about how to handle a situation where someone appears as an unidentified "caller" at a virtual meeting had come up; the caller had at first refused to identify himself. There was general consensus among the committee that anyone who attends our meetings should be welcomed, and that identification is needed (for the meeting minutes) if the person wants to speak.

Gilbert noted that if we follow the rotation schedule proposed at last week's board meeting, the committee's next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 27, at 5 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

-- Allen Gilbert

Attachment 1

Addition to CVFiber Rules of Procedure document:

As amended by Policy Committee 4-22-21 and sent to board for approval:

J. GOVERNING BOARD COMMITTEES

1. Title 30, Chapter 82, § 3071 gives the Governing Board of each CUD broad power in establishing committees and granting and delegating to them “such powers as it deems necessary.” The only committee specifically mentioned in the Title 30 CUD statutes is an Executive Committee, and it requires that if such a committee is created, members “shall serve staggered terms and shall be board members.” The only other statutory requirement is that “Membership on other committees established by the board is not restricted to board members.”
2. If the CVFiber Governing Board establishes an Executive Committee, its members shall be the Board officers (chair, vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer (if a Board member), and the chairs of other committees the Board may establish. The chair of the Governing Board shall serve as the chair of the Executive Committee.
3. When the Governing Board creates any committees other than an Executive Committee, a temporary chair shall be designated by the Governing Board chair to preside over the new committee.
4. At the new committee’s first meeting and as its first order of business, the committee shall choose, and nominate for approval by the Governing Board, a board member to serve as permanent chair of the committee.
5. At its next meeting, the Governing Board shall consider the nomination of the person to be permanent chair. Should the nomination not be approved by the Governing Board, the Governing Board chair shall designate a new temporary chair to preside over the committee. The committee may then repeat, at its next meeting, the process of choosing a person to serve as permanent chair and send the nomination to the Governing Board. This process shall be repeated as many times as necessary until a nominee is approved by the Governing Board.
6. Committee chairs shall serve until the committee’s annual reorganization in May. At that time, a chair shall be chosen by the committee. If no person is chosen, the

current chair shall remain in office until a new chair is chosen. If a new chair is chosen by the committee, that person shall be nominated for approval by the Governing Board, with the procedures set out in paragraph 5 followed until a new chair is approved.

For reference: The full text of Title 30, Chapter 82, § 3071 is:

§ 3071. Committees

The board has authority to establish one or more committees and grant and delegate to them such powers as it deems necessary. Members of an executive committee shall serve staggered terms and shall be board members. Membership on other committees established by the board is not restricted to board members. (Added 2015, No. 41, § 20, eff. June 1, 2015.)

Attachment 2

The CUDs are committed to availability, affordability, accessibility, and accountability.

The CUDs are committed to delivering high speed broadband at 100\100 mbps to all of the residents in its district. We recognize that today the Internet is a life preserver, and that tomorrow the Internet with ever-increasing speeds is a ladder of opportunity.

The CUDs recognize that keeping subscriber fees low is the best way to make it affordable. Thus, completing the buildout of its infrastructure and paid for with federal and state grants in the near-term, and low-cost revenue bonds in the long-term, is the best way to keep Vermont subscriber fees low.

But even low subscription fees do not make the Internet accessible for everyone. The CUDs are committed to providing accessibility assistance in many forms, including lower rates, installation fee reductions or waivers, and participation in programs such as Equal Access to Broadband.

Finally, CUDs are accountable, not to shareholders or investors, but as a municipality to its member communities and the people. CUDs are bound by open meeting laws, conduct their meetings in public, publish agendas and minutes.

CUDs need grant funds today. Delay is denial. Diversion of funds increases delay and subscription fees.

CUDs are an investment in Vermonters. Act today to invest in CUDs.

-- Ray Pelletier