



CVFIBER GOVERNING BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Maple Corner Community Center
 84 West County Road, Calais, VT
 and
 Virtually on MS Teams

November 16, 2021

Present:

Governing board delegates:

Allen Gilbert (Worcester), Chuck Burt (Moretown), David Healy (Calais), Henry Amistadi (Duxbury), Jeremy Hansen (Berlin), Jeremy Matt (Plainfield), Linda Gravell (Waterbury), Raymond Pelletier (Northfield), Siobhan Perricone (Orange), Tom Fisher (East Montpelier).

Alternate delegates:

David Wendt (Duxbury - Alternate), Phil Cecchini (Barre Town - Alternate), Jonathan Williams (Barre City – Alternate)

Others Present:

Jerry Diamantides

Town Representation (12/21 towns represented)				
Barre City	Barre Town	Berlin	Cabot	Calais
Present	Present	Present	Absent	Present
Duxbury	East Montpelier	Elmore	Marshfield	Middlesex
Present	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent
Montpelier	Moretown	Northfield	Orange	Plainfield
Absent	Present	Present	Present	Present
Roxbury	Waterbury	Washington	Williamstown	Woodbury
Absent	Present	Absent	Absent	Absent
Worcester				
Present				

Called to order: 5:00 PM by Jeremy Hansen

Additions to the agenda:

- Ray Pelletier suggested discussion of NRTC membership

- Jeremy Matt suggested adding a discussion of allowing non-CV Fiber email addresses to send mail through our mailing lists.
- Jeremy Matt suggested adding approval of the November 9, 2021 minutes. Allen Gilbert said that he wasn't sure that meeting minutes can't be approved at a special meeting. Jeremy Hansen said that he thought that we weren't even required to approve meeting minutes so he didn't think there would be any requirement about when minutes are approved.

Public comment:

- None

Addressing allegation of Open Meeting Law violation

- Jeremy Hansen noted that we received an allegation of open meeting law violations. Jeremy Hansen read the violation allegation, which stated:
A physical presence requires access to hear and be heard, and for the ability to distinguish who is speaking. This necessitates shared screen sized for viewing by multiple individuals safely spaces, and sound reinforcement beyond a laptop speaker audibility.

The Executive Committee meeting held last week, and board meeting scheduled do not meet the simple access provision of law.
 Jeremy Hansen said that he looked at the open meeting law and said that he was not able to find anything that suggests that we have violated open meeting laws. Jeremy Hansen said that we need to respond to this allegation.
- Siobhan Perricone asked if anything had changed with respect to open meeting laws since the pandemic. Jeremy Hansen noted that a few changes have been made with respect to speakers calling in by phone identifying themselves before speaking, but that there is nothing in the regulations about the size of the screen, what size of speakers are required, etc. Jeremy Hansen also noted that the person who made the complaint was able to attend, hear, and understand the meeting in question at the public location.
- Chuck Burt noted that he's only once had a member of the public show up in person for a Communications Committee meeting. He said that if we regularly had more people attending then he could maybe see the need for better AV equipment.
- Allen Gilbert read 1 V.S.A. § 312(D) which is the portion of the statute relating to public participation in meetings where a quorum of members are attending electronically:
If a quorum or more of the members of a public body attend a meeting without being physically present at a designated meeting location, the agenda required under subsection (d) of this section shall designate at least one physical location where a member of the public can attend and participate in the meeting. At least one member of the public body, or at least one staff or designee of the public body, shall be physically present at each designated meeting location.
 Allen Gilbert asked if the complainant was able to participate in the meeting. Jeremy Matt responded that the complainant was able to speak during the Public Comment portion of the meeting and that his participation was recorded in the minutes.
- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Jeremy Matt) Move that the Board find there was no violation of the Open Meeting law at the Executive Committee Meeting on 2 November 2021 and the Governing Board meeting on 9 November 2021. Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - David Wendt asked if we had access to a projector if necessary. Jeremy Hansen said that yes, if we had a presentation or if we start having more people attend then there are spaces available with larger AV setups. However, these spaces typically charge rental fees. Jeremy Hansen noted

that the location in question is central, doesn't cost money to use, has food, and has good wifi. Jeremy Hansen also noted that people very rarely attend our meetings in person.

Appointment of Treasurer

- Jeremy Hansen noted that we have paperwork that needs to be signed by the Chair and the Treasurer. We haven't appointed a new treasurer; instead, Phil Cecchini has been acting as treasurer in an informal capacity.
- MOTION (Jeremy Hansen second Linda Gravel) Move to appoint Phil Cecchini to the Treasurer position. Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Jeremy Hansen noted that if Phil is voted into the Treasurer position, he must relinquish his position on the Board.
 - Phil Cecchini noted that he's not able to take on a lot of work, but he'll fill the statutory role. JH noted that now that we have an accountant, the Treasurer role shouldn't require much work.
 - Ray Pelletier noted that Phil was Vice Chair of the Finance committee, so that position will now be open.

Discussion of NRTC membership

- MOTION (Ray Pelletier second Jeremy Matt) Move that the Board approve membership as an Associate Membership: Affiliated Organizations in the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC) and authorizes the execution of the appropriate membership application by the CVFiber Chair and payment of the \$500 membership fee. Passed unanimously. Discussion:
 - Jonathan Williams asked who NRTC is. Jeremy Hansen explained that NRTC is a coop of rural telecommunications utilities. David Healy said another advantage to membership is that that we get to use NRTC's buying power when it comes to obtaining equipment.

Discussion of allowing external senders to send mail through our mailing addresses

- Jeremy Matt noted that our email distribution lists could become vehicles for spam and said that he thinks that these lists should be for official CVFiber business only. He expressed particular concern that if enough spammy messages are sent through our public-notice list that people on the list (town clerks, etc.) would stop paying attention to our official messages.
- MOTION (Jeremy Matt second Jeremy Hansen) Move that we stop allowing non CVFiber senders to send messages through our distribution lists.
 - Chuck Burt noted that only a few people can post to the public distribution list – this list is not even open to all board members.
 - Chuck Burt noted that we previously voted as a board to open the lists. However, he was not in favor of having these lists open to the public. Chuck Burt noted that the website is soon going to have the functionality to allow the public to contact specific board members, town delegations, committee groups, etc.
 - Allen Gilbert said that he's not sure that we can make our email addresses private as we're a public entity. Jeremy Hansen and Jeremy Matt responded that our email addresses are public, but they don't think we're under any obligation to provide a mechanism for sending messages to all of us at once.
 - Motion tabled and the issue was sent to the Communications Committee for consideration.

Approval of meeting minutes:

- Deferred to the next meeting due to lack of time.

Roundtable

- None

Meeting adjourned at 6:05

Respectfully submitted,
Jeremy Matt, Clerk