



CVFiber Policy Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 30, 2022 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Virtual meeting

Present: Committee members Allen Gilbert (Worcester), Linda Gravell (Waterbury), Alexis Julian (public member), Ray Pelletier (Northfield), and Siobhan Perricone (Orange); and Jennille Smith, executive director, and Laurie Beth Putnam, new CVFiber treasurer attending as guest. **Absent:** Phil Cechinni (Barre) and John Morris (Marshfield)

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. by Gilbert, chair.

Changes to the agenda. There were none.

Public comment. There was none.

Approval of minutes. The draft minutes of the May 26, 2022 Policy Committee meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Perricone and seconded by Gravell.

Development of policies needed before CVFiber network goes live – continuation of discussion. Committee members working on developing policies gave updates on where they stood. Perricone said she hasn't been able to make much progress on the policies she's been working on, a Privacy Policy and an Acceptable Use Policy. Gravell said the Communications Committee has recommended two companies – Cornerstone and Crowd Source -- to help with marketing and outreach. Smith said that work will go forward, and Waitsfield Telecom, our operator, will be pulled in to that work. Gravell wasn't sure how the work she's been doing to develop a subscriber agreement will fit with what the firms dealing with marketing and outreach will be doing. Smith said a subscriber

agreement would likely emerge from the firms' work. Were we to need a subscriber policy, the two documents would have to work in tandem. As for specifications around things like drops and undergrown conduits, Waitsfield Telecom will be handling them; Smith thinks we probably want to develop our own set of specifications around what our standards will be for installation and customer services. Gravell said she would like to see beta testers included in this work. Smith said that was part of the plan. Gilbert reported on the work he's been doing around a Net Neutrality Policy and a Copyright Infringement Policy. For the Net Neutrality Policy, he said he's building on the net neutrality standards law Vermont developed after federal interest in the issue waned. The Vermont law enables us to gain "net neutrality certification" if we agree to abide by the standards established in the law. It's the approach NEK Broadband is using, and the committee agreed it's a good one. For the Copyright Infringement Policy, Gilbert said he had asked Chuck Burt whether our website allows visitors to post information there for others to see – the key tripping stone that points to whether a policy, and designated agent, are needed to protect CVFiber from copyrighted materials that could end up on our website. The danger to that happening is if infringement of the material was claimed, CVFiber could be sued rather than, or in addition to, the individual alleged violator. Burt said our website does not provide users with space to upload and store their own material, and risk of lawsuits is therefore low. Gilbert said he thinks this issue needs to be reviewed by an attorney skilled in copyright law; the committee agreed.

Broadband equity issues – continuation of discussion. Equity issues were discussed within the context of the policies we've been developing and how we'll be reaching out to the public via an engagement/marketing plan. Perricone asked Smith if equal access to broadband has been included in discussions she's had with various people; Smith said yes. Perricone said Equal Access to Broadband (an ECFiber initiative that focuses on digital equity) has a computer tool that can help specific people at specific addresses find support, such as subscription subsidies, that may be available to them. Perricone related that EAB thought at first that this would be a tool social service workers (caseworkers) could be given, and use in helping clients get assistance around broadband access issues. EAB found out, however, that EAB would be expected to pay the caseworkers to provide this assistance; caseworkers can't just add a new service without compensation for their time. EAB has moved in another direction since learning that. Gravell said she's been working with people at the foodshelf and senior center in her town; she tries to talk about the internet and broadband with the folks who come into the facilities. She feels we need a pitch that explains why someone needs the internet.

Tracking volunteer hours spent on CVFiber work – continuation of discussion. There was time for only a short discussion about moving forward on

tracking volunteer hours. The committee agrees volunteer hours is important information to have that could be of great value when applying for grants. The online program “Clockify” again came up. Members are encouraged to check it out at <https://clockify.me/>

Other business. None

Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

-- Allen Gilbert

Approved July 28, 2022