

NEK Community Broadband

# Annual Public Hearing Minutes

November 11, 2020 - 7:00 to 8:00 pm

**Attendees: (see attached list)**

Roll Call of Board Members - 3 Min

Introduction of Speakers - 2 Minutes

New Business - 20 Minutes

7:05 - Report of 2020 activities and 2021 plan -Evan Carlson, NEK Broadband Chair

Evan gave a brief introduction to the meeting and agenda

For 2021

- NEK Broadband is a community Union district with 47 towns, hoping to get the rest of the towns involved very soon
- We received the CARES grant to build in Concord and waterford
- Completed the Business Plan with NRTC
- Received 276,000 through H315 for Preconstruction to further planning efforts and the pilot project
- Selected Waitsfield Champlain Valley Telecom to be our network Partners, appointed Christa Shute as interim Executive Director, received USDA RDBG grant to expand pilot project
- Received ownership of the state fiber assets, in the process of starting construction in Concord, fiber on poles in a couple of weeks, we have ordered Fiber for the network build and applied for more grant funds.

For 2022

- Completing the Executable Project Plan
- Ordering for First Construction Materials
- USDA grant work to complete
- Pole attachments and rideouts will be happening
- Prework for the construction season
- Will be hiring multiple crews to get the work done, will be doing marketing, and will have some customers online, will be trying to increase the take rate throughout the

- region to aid 2022+
- For 2023 and beyond we will be looking to go to the bond market and complete the builds and mission.

7:20 - Financial Report - Christa Shute - NEK Broadband, Executive Director

Christa gave an overview of the Budget for 2021

- We were able to raise 1.4 mil for 2021 through various grants
  - The expenses increased as well. (374,471.00)
  - We were unable to get VEDA loans or matches, we will look to that in the future
- Capital investment:

The proposed budget for 2022 was given.

- Preconstruction cost will cover salaries.

7:30 Public comment and questions

- Rep. Williams- Branching out into rural areas, are you hitting the Class 3 roads, all of the population?
  - Christa- Every address that is powered by electric utility. The build is 4-5 years, it could take longer. We are hyper-focused on the unserved and underserved. We want to take care of as many of those as we can.
- Rep Williams- if they are off- grid they are not eligible?
  - Christa- Yes, the funding is tied to on-grid addresses. Off-grid would be extremely hard due to costs, but the Organization, hopes to find different ways to reach them if we can. Perhaps using wireless entities at the end of the Fiber network.
  - Christa- we are also working with the utilities on customers who may want power to their homes
- Lonny- when will it come to Guildhall?

- Christa- We have identified every address 39,000 premises, and the solution to get to them and locations for the backbone. We have identified the cabinet locations. The next part of the process will be to look at where we are going. After the Executable Project Plan is complete, we will have a better idea.
- Lonny- is there fiber on 102?
  - Christa- There is and the NEK Broadband will be taking that fiber over and will be owned by NEK Broadband. We are looking at how we can leverage the state fiber and bring service off the state fiber as quickly as possible, while continuing to build.
  - Christa- the fiber exists, but is not lit. We are issuing an RFP for the materials next week. The lead times are currently very long. It may be April or later.
- Lonny- how will we be notified when Fiber is available?
  - Christa- [get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org) to stay updated on the build.
- Kristen- our mission and capacity is to serve grid tied addresses within the member towns, but we do not have funding for towns that are not in our CUD. Towns include Granby, Lemington, Bloomfield, Victory, and Norton.
- Rep. Williams- who do I send to the Select Board to get answers to our questions?
  - Evan- Myself or Michael Strait.
  - Christa- there is no cost for the municipality, there is no debt that can go to the municipality, there is no required cost for member towns. There will be a standard cost for service.
  - We are thankful for those who reach out to their towns to join the CUD.

## Other Business - 5 Minutes

Adjourn at 7:34pm

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Jami Jones, NEK Broadband, Clerk*

Town	Delegate	P	V	Alternate	P	V	Alternate	P	V
Albany	Rob Dewees								
Barnet	Kathleen Monroe			Jerri Kohl					
Barton									
Brighton	Michael Strait	x	x	Jonah Petre					
Brownington	Calvin Page			William Davis					
Brunswick	David Caron			Theresa Caron					
Burke	Jennifer Barone			Todd Vendituoli	x	x			
Canaan	Ann Morgan Wade	x	x	Alfred Buckley			Frank Sawicki, Jr		
Charleston	John Kellogg	x	x	Peter Moskovites					
Concord	Dale Urie			Bill Humphrey					
Coventry	David Barlow	x	x	Phil Marquette					
Craftsbury	Katherine Sims			Rudy Chase	x	x			
Danville	Jonathan Baker	x	x	Sean Frason					
Derby	Karen Chitambar			Bob Kelley			Grant Spates		
East Haven	Lyonel Tracy			Kerri Fillion					
Glover	Noah Armstrong			Shaun Campbell					
Greensboro	Carol Fairbank			Mary Metcalf	x	x			
Groton	Mike Gaiss			Michael Nahmias					
Guildhall	Susan McVetty			George Blakeslee					
Hardwick	Paul Fixx			Doug McClure					
Holland	Andrew Bouchard			Ed Brady	x	x			
Irasburg									
Kirby	Dana Caspersen			Malcom Doak					
Lowell	Marjorie Kramer	x	x	Faye Starr					
Lyndon	Shawn Tester			Marty Feltus					
Lunenburg	Harry Williams			James Peyton					
Maidstone	James Mewkill								
Morgan	Larry Labor								
Newark	Mark Whitworth	x	x	Ben Tilford	x	x			
Newport City	Woodman Page			Chris Vachon			Paul Monette		
Newport Town	Wendy Matthews	x	x	Cameron Thompson			David Ghelli		
Peacham	Jock Gill	x	x	Jim Barlow					
Ryegate	Shawn Burroughs			Nelson Elder					
Sheffield	Annie McLean			Carolyn Crankshaw					
St. Johnsbury	Nicolas Anzalone	x	x	Scott Campbell					
Stannard	Steve Pickard			Johanna Polsenberg					
Sutton	Evan Carlson	x	x	David Tucker			Robert Simms		
Troy	Robert Langlands			Gary Taylor			Mark Sanville		
UTGs	Anthony Soldo			Gina Vigneault					
Walden	Caro Thompson			Sarah Lyons					
Waterford	Bill Piper			Fred Saar					
Westfield	Carrie Glessner			Laura Emery					
Westmore	Erik Townsend			Linda Michniewicz			Ray Lanier	x	x
Wheelock	David Stahler Jr.			Stephen Amos					
Wolcott	Michael Davidson			Bruce Wheeler					

Date:

	P	V		
Delegates P/V	11	0	Member Towns	43
Alternates P/V	6	0	Towns Represente	0
Votes total	0		Quorum	No
Votes to pass	N/A			

Members of the Public

Staff in Attendance:

Christa Shute (ED)

Jami Jones (Clerk)

Kristen Foutnain (Treasurer)