

NEK Community Broadband

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2020

Attendees: Evan Carlson, Kristen Fountain (3:11 p.m.) Noah Armstrong, Jonathan Baker, Bill Piper, (Katherine Sims 3:12 p.m.), Dave Snedeker (3:45 p.m.), Annie McLean, Christine Hallquist, Jamie Jones. Michael Birnbaum (3:30 p.m.), Chris Campbell, Tilson (3:45 p.m.): Brett Nichols, Frederick Fiet, Elaina Davis

Evan. (Chair) called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and introduced Jamie Jones, who has been recommended for the CUD Bookkeeper/Clerk position by Evan C., Nick A., and Christine H. Jamie J. introduced herself and Christine H. provided background on the candidate selection process.

Motion to approve the hire of Jami Jones as the NEK Broadband Bookkeeper/Clerk. (M: Nick A., S: Bill P.) – motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Roundup

- Evan update on CRF: rolled original \$35,000 and new \$65,000 into \$100,000 ask.
- The Legislature is considering pushing 1.5 million to CUDs. What could NEK Broadband use \$300,000 for in the next months, perhaps partner with Tilson for Get Vermont Connected Now?

Finance & Tech Committee Updates

- The Finance Committee is developing the 2021 budget and Kristen F. will provide info on Monday.

Christine's Update

Christine provided an update on her work over the past two weeks.

[I believe there was a motion by Nick A. to pass a resolution that passed.7-0. There seems to be an issue with the Zoom recording that I am working on but in the meantime does anyone recall what ath motion was?]

Survey

2,500-3,000 is target sample size. Rolled out on Facebook. Discussion of additional outreach/communications to promote the survey followed. Brett Nichols (Tilson) joined the

discussion and commented on regionally specific outreach tactics. Tilson representatives gave an update on their deliverables and due dates.

Kingdom Fiber

Michael Birnbaum (Kingdom Fiber) joined the meeting to discuss fiber drops and asked if NEK Broadband wanted to publicize this project. There are roughly 100 addresses that will be affected. Hand delivering fliers to these addresses can provide good photo ops! Kingdom Fiber did not submit applications for fiber projects in round 1, 2, or 3. He then discussed Kingdom Fiber's buildout plan and hubs noting that more drops might be possible. Evan C. asked for input from the Executive Committee on providing testimony to the Legislature concerning the Department of Public Service (DPS).

Telecommunications and Connectivity Advisory Board

Katherine S. explained the role of the Board and the internal politics and leadership of the Board. Discussion followed. Michael B. noted frustrations with DPS's selection of CARES funding projects.

Other Business

Craftsbury has requested the CUD annual report for their annual report.

Executive Session

Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss candidates for the NEK Broadband CU Administrator position. (M: Evan C., S: Kristen F.) – motion carried 7-0.

The Committee came out of the Executive Session.

Motion to advance and interview only those candidates that meet the hiring criteria for the Administrator Position. **(M: Jonathan B., S: Nick A.) – motion carried 6-0.**

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m. Next meeting is October 2, 2020.

Action Items

- Annual report for the CUD (October) – Executive Committee
- Targeted Front Porch Forum and NEK Collaborative social media blasts for the survey – Katherine S., Christine H.

Respectfully submitted,

Annie McLean, NEK Community Broadband Clerk