

1 **Fiber Committee**
2 **MEETING MINUTES**
3 October 15, 2019

4 *All minutes are draft until approved by the Committee please check future minutes for approval of these*
5 *minutes. Meetings may be videotaped; recordings are held by Green Mountain Access Television. GMATV*
6 *info: PO Box 581, Hyde Park, 05655; info@greenmountainaccess.tv or 802-851-1592*

7 Members Present: Anne Geiersbach; Carol Fano; Michael Rooney; Jack Wool

8 Others Present: Ron Rodjenski, Town Administrator; Lea Kilvadyova, LCPC; GMATV did not
9 videotape this meeting

10 Jack welcomed everyone and the meeting opened at 5:05 p.m.

11
12 1. **Welcome**

13 2. **Regional Broadband Meeting** – Lea Kilvadyova from Lamoille County Planning Commission
14 reviewed the recent county meeting where discussion occurred about how the regional planning
15 office could help towns individually or collectively in their fiber/broadband planning. Hyde Park,
16 Johnson and Cambridge had active committees or groups while Belvidere and Waterville were
17 considering how to proceed. Eden and Wolcott may be interested, and Lea is continuing her reach
18 out effort to all towns. Michael asked if there was a dark fiber map (existing but unused /under-used
19 fiber lines typically installed along public roads) as the only maps now prepared are live fiber and
20 cable lines. Options include have an existing fiber company extend to Hyde Park, joining multiple
21 towns as a consortium, or waiting for electric companies or telephone companies to provide fiber
22 services. Cambridge's initial approach is to work with Stowe Access as the company already
23 provides service to parts of the community. Johnson is discussing feasibility with MC Fiber, which
24 is now in Underhill/Jericho and expanding to Fletcher. Kingdom Fiber may be a possible option for
25 Wolcott and Eden. Existing fiber companies, many grassroots organizations, tend to prefer not to
26 run parallel lines where Comcast is located, as the "take up rate" or new fiber subscribers tend to
27 be less per mile if fiber and cable serve the same area. Lea suggested that more detailed analysis
28 of options for Hyde Park, like including life-cycle analysis of a new fiber line, would need to be done
29 by a consultant, not the regional planning office. However, Lea noted the state is hiring more staff
30 under Act 79 to assist towns with technical support and it might be a good option to connect with
31 them before the end of the calendar year. It was noted that Act 79 does provide bonding and funding
32 options for expanding broadband, which would include new fiber lines. Lea suggested an interim
33 step in the planning could be to send out a RFI or Request for Information to potential fiber providers
34 and ask them if they would serve Hyde Park, and if not, what are the limitations. The State
35 Broadband staff is required to report on the status of broadband in Vermont by 12/31/2019. Lea
36 agreed to reach out to State staff and see if a Hyde Park/ possible regional broadband meeting,
37 could be setup in Hyde Park before the end of the calendar year. A final interim suggestion was
38 that the committee could develop a citizen broadband/fiber survey for Hyde Park and that could be
39 useful to determine the level of support for fiber line service to every pole or "to every door" which
40 was discussed at prior meetings as a committee goal. The RFI would be best sent out after a
41 meeting with the State broadband staff.

42 3. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be scheduled depending on the response from the State
43 Broadband staff.

44 4. **Adjourn** – Motion by Michael to adjourn, so voted at 6:10 p.m.