

**ROXBURY ARPA COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES OF AUGUST 11, 2022**  
**10:00AM – 11:31AM**  
**THIS MEETING WAS HELD IN PERSON AT COMMUNITY HALL**

**MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:** Chair Rene Bouchard, Elizabeth Carney (via Teams), Sean Cummings, Brock Freyer, Bill Hansen, Don Randall

**PUBLIC:** Jennille Smith, CV Fiber (via Teams)

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am
2. Discussion with Jennille Smith, Executive Director of CV Fiber

*Asked her to talk about how the rollout is going and where does Roxbury stand?*

- a. currently doing make ready work in Calais. Will be installing the network cabinet and hoping to light up subscribers next year
- b. based on current calendar, Roxbury construction should start in 4<sup>th</sup> qtr 2023 with first parts of Roxbury up in 1<sup>st</sup> qtr of 2024
- c. the network is being built North to East/West to South, so Roxbury is at the end
- d. working on the network buildout 12 months out of the year with contractors

*Asked her to talk about the statement that no folks or roads with underground utilities will be served.*

- a. CV Fiber will serve underground utilities. It will be done case by case as they may also look at adding poles. They plan to work with underground contractors in the buildout.
- b. environmental issues have to be considered
- c. they are in a state of constant reassessment and may work with others such as EC Fiber to have them buildout parts of the network like East Roxbury

*Follow-up question on ability to hook up some Roxbury folks sooner. Brock in East Roxbury mentioned he is on EC Fiber made available to him as were stringing Fiber past his house. This led to a discussion on "loopholes"*

- a. Loophole has to do with geography and terrain. If you need to get the network from point a to point b, you can use ARPA funding to go through that territory because it connects to underserved territories, even if some subscribers weren't underserved.

*Some folks are off grid with Solar, etc... Will CV Fiber serve them as well?*

- a. yes, though not as part of first buildout. These would probably be in the next Phase after 3+ years

*Since Roxbury as a whole has limited to no cell service, TDS is most likely providing Phone or a Voice over IP / Internet bundle. Will CV Fiber/Waitsfield Telecomm offer a similar phone service?*

- a. primary mission is high speed internet
- b. they have had discussions about phone and TV.
  - they plan to offer a phone service
  - they do not plan to offer TV since high speed internet allows for easy streaming

*Roxbury has a small pot of dollars. How much remains of the 1.5M Broadband match?*

- a. 600k or so has been claimed so there are monies still available for a match

*Would committing dollars speed up our rollout?*

- a. CV Fiber is coming to Roxbury. Committing ARPA will not impact when or change the priority.

*How would a donation be used?*

- a. monies donated and matched will only be used within Roxbury
- b. it can only be put to underserved households where underserved is defined as having speeds less than 25Mb upload and 3Mb download
- c. Towns get to specify in an attachment to the MOU how they want the monies used. CV Fiber recommends putting towards the costs of “drops” and hooking up Community Centers and public gathering places

*How do they know which households are underserved?*

- a. working with a firm named Crowd Fiber to see by address if household is eligible

*What sort of oversight or reporting would be provided on our donated funds to monitor the burn down rate?*

- a. though the donated monies end up in CV Fibers main bank account, each Town’s donation is being setup as a grant on their books
- b. each Town will have separate grant numbers and they will receive invoicing and statements on those accounts

*The MOU Allocation form shows a per home connection cost of \$1,650. Given Roxbury’s demographics this may be a challenge for many. What can be done about this?*

- a. this is where some towns are lowering the connection costs for all underserved locations using the matched ARPA monies
- b. as part of connecting a home up, CV Fiber could ask if they needed help as grants and subsidies could be made available

*Example of a home being located 1,300 feet away from Warren Mountain Road and where the drop would be.*

- a. drop is at the pole
- b. homeowner could lay conduit if thought they could do so cheaper than CV Fiber
- c. CV Fiber has been having internal discussions and the policy is not set yet, but maybe up to 400’ CV Fiber pays to install the conduit and over 400’ the customer pays. Again policy is not yet set.

*Request was made to see how other Towns are allocating their ARPA monies.*

- a. Jennille suggested speaking with Orange and Waterbury as two towns with executed MOU’s
- b. Brock to follow-up on this

### **Action Items**

- Brock to try and speak with Orange and Waterbury ARPA folks on their allocation plans

- Bill to speak with a friend at TDS to try and understand what's up with the fiber strung on Tracy Hill and high-speed internet in downtown Roxbury

3. Additions/Deletions to Agenda

- a. approve minutes of 28-Jul-22 ☐ tabled until next meeting
- b. set date for next meeting ☐ Wednesday 17-Aug-22 at 10:00am

4. Approve Committee Guidelines

No changes cited and noted we could amend in the future if warranted. Motion to approve was made by Bill, seconded by Don and passed 6-0

5. Approve Web Updates

Request to note that the list of projects recv'd to-date is not in priority order. It was agreed to state such. A motion to approve was made by Bill, seconded by Don and passed 6-0

6. Discuss getting us ready for a Public rollout

- a. VLCT chat
  - i. Rene noted he had not heard back from an email sent to VLCT in hopes of having them chat to us. He will follow up with Tammy to see who assisted her and Dave in taking the Standard Allocation position in April 2022. He'll try speaking with her.
- b. Mtg topics
  - i. At our next meeting we need to consider, besides CV Fiber, how we will score projects and a submission form

**Action Items**

- Rene to follow-up with Tammy on VLCT contact

7. Other Business – Sean will commence setup of Survey on SurveyMonkey this week.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:31am.