

July 10, 2024 – 5:00 PM

## Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/dsx-okxj-foe>

OTTER CREEK CUD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
Town	Name	Term Ends	Present/Absent
Shrewsbury	Laura Black, Chair	2025	P
Mendon	Larry Courcelle, Vice Chair	2025	P
Benson	Steve Murray	2026	P
Sudbury	Mike Small	2025	P
Brandon	Peter Werner	2025	P
Hubbardton	Chris Custer	2025	P
Wells	Eleanor Jones, Secretary/Clerk	2025	P
	Jackie Savela, Treasurer	2025	A

Guest: Caleb (Vantage Point)

1. Call to order - Start recording the meeting - 5:06 pm
2. Approval of agenda – Add ‘Front Page Forum’ - Added Front Page Forum to agenda before Chair Report. Motion to add Front Page Forum to agenda and approve agenda - so moved by Larry. Second by Peter. Motion passed.
3. Approval of previous meeting minutes – 6/12/24 - Laura asked for motion to approve previous meeting minutes as written, so moved by Eleanor. Second by Peter. Motion passed.
4. Discussion of Front Page Forum - Mike spoke to rep. from FPF for paid account. Special account to reach all 18 towns in mass would cost \$153.00 per. month, minimum of 6 months. Total of \$918.00 for 6 months for Occud PR. There are no less expensive options except free account and that would not really work for Occud.

Suggested FPF post by Mike -

Dear Community Members

We are thrilled to announce the forthcoming availability of high speed fiber internet service brought to you by Occud. Construction has begun and with service becoming available beginning in July through November and December 2024 across the towns we represent. The initiative will provide reliable and affordable broadband to our residents and businesses. Stay tuned for more updates and visit our website to check service eligibility and timelines.

Best Regards

Laura Black (Chair)

Otter Creek Communications Union District.

For more details, visit OCCUD <https://occud.org>.

Mike would love feedback for content. He is glad to organize this effort.

Larry states that perhaps CCI and GNS should contribute to this effort, they do benefit. Laura asks if we can easily change content. We can. Mike says we can also target specific towns.

Laura will let CCI and GNS know about FPF use and cost.

Peter suggests that negative feedback could be handled directly by CCI and GNS.

Laura asked for motion to recommend to Governing Board that Occud pay \$918.00 for 6 months service and Mike will work on the messaging and work with Jackie to make that payment. Motion by Eleanor. Second by Steve. Motion passed.

5. Chair Report on OCCUD business:

- a. Summer In-Person meeting. - Meeting to take place July 17 at Lake Bomoseen State Park @5 pm at the pavilion. Laura needs RSVP from folks.
- b. New Reps for Rutland Town, Fair Haven. -
- c. GNS-update. - A couple dates are pushed out, but not much; info from Mike. Buildout is really moving fast.
- d. CCI-update. - CCJ has completed a couple wire centers. Buildout is really moving along.
  - VCBB Contractor inspections. -
  - Sale. Letter of support from OCCUD (see Eli E notes) - E. Emerson is asking for CUDs to submit letter of support for CCI sale. Larry mentioned landlines regarding sale. Eleanor asked if the wording of the CCI sale contains a provision to prevent the buyer (venture capital) from splitting and selling off assets for some amount of time. Laura does not know. The documents are available on the Vermont Public Utility Commission website.
- e. Application to VCBB for additional funding; due by mid-August. - Laura will apply for funds for 9 addresses and one address in Wells. She may need a special meeting.
- f. Unserved address in Wells. - what SoVT is doing,
- g. Sustainability Planning - 10-year Plan\*.

Chair asks for motion for executive session @5:55 pm. Motion by Peter. Second by Larry. Motion passed.

Left executive session @6:15 pm.

Chair asks for a motion that the executive board has reviewed the resolution for a 10 Year Sustainability Plan and suggest bringing it forward to the Full Governing Board for approval and allow the chair to sign it. So moved by Chris. Second by Steve. Motion passed.

6. Chair Report on Vermont State items:

7. Warrant and Financials (Treasurer) - add PO box fee for 1 more year (\$268) - The warrant is for \$20,999.78 dated 7/10/2024 and now should include \$256.00 (Larry corrected this amount) for 12 months for PO box to be paid by credit card. Chris thought

the \$10,000 billing from VCUDA was expensive. Laura thinks they've done a lot of work. Motion by Chris to approve warrant for \$21,255.78. Second by Peter. Motion passed.

8. Pre-Const Grant (H360) and Const Grant report (Vantage Point). - Pre construction grant reporting is going along as usual (due on 15th for previous month). Quarterly report is done in the portal also and reports expenses, and timelines and milestones (miles built by CCI by end of June was 15.4 miles and construction completion date was moved up). The third section of the report is workforce reporting. The quarterly report is due on the 15th as well.
9. Review Agenda Items for upcoming Governing Board meetings: Motion to approve Resolution on 10-Yr Sustainability plan. Chair Report (see above). Financial report. Grant reports. Courtesy Service locations and town contact. -  
Laura would like the towns to provide a contact to CCI for courtesy service (wifi) locations.
10. VCUDA update (VCUDA Rep) - At July 2 meeting there was a Starlink workshop regarding hard to reach residences. Setup for those locations is \$3500 to \$4500 per location. A BEAD workshop is in the works. Explained that digital equity has three parts - affordability, equipment and know how. If state can't, maybe feds will help with digital equity.
11. VCBB update (Chair) - BEAD, digital equity, portal work and affordability (affordable access) were all discussed.
12. Other Business -
13. Next meeting August 14, 2024 -
14. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn by Larry, second by Chris. Motion passed @6:35 pm.

Google Meet joining info:

Video call link: <http://meet.google.com/dsx-okxj-foe>

Phone: +1-407-906-7354

PIN: 453656294