

Minutes of Belvidere Planning Commission Meeting

July 13, 2023, an in-person meeting.

Meeting convened at 6:28 PM and adjourned at 7:25 PM.

BPC members Andy Iwaskiewicz, Ken Adams, Kathy Marchant, and Deb Baker attended at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office. Also present was Carol Caldwell-Edmonds, Belvidere rep to CUD and LCPC. No adjustments to agenda.

Motion by Deb to accept the minutes of the June 15, 2023, meeting as written; second by Andy; motion carried.

Updates on Lamoille Fibernet from Carol:

- A deal with Fidium Fiber to partner as the CUD's provider is in the final stages, however MC Fiber has begun hooking up customers in Belvidere; hookup fee depends on distance from nearest drop
- The CUD has completed the application for ARPA grant money; a construction budget has been passed, with work to start in 2024
- There is a new \$229 million federal grant targeting 2025 and onward to fund Broadband Equity Access & Development (BEAD). Andy will post via Front Porch Forum a "Please take the BEAD survey" notice

Carol reported that the first public hearing on the draft regional plan for LCPC is July 25th, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM at the Johnson Municipal Office

ARPA Advisory Committee updates:

- The ARPA Advisory Committee is moving forward with the remaining suggestions submitted by Belvidere residents and simultaneously creating an objective selection criteria metric for making decisions on the suggestions; also confirming that suggestions qualify as ARPA projects
- Suggestions include updating the Town parcel maps, installing children's playscapes, preservation of the "Old Junction School house", reimbursing revenue to the Belvidere Community Club which they lost due to COVID, and creating a town "fire district"

Kathy will hand out a copy of the Belvidere Town Plan "Implementation Chapter" for future review

Kathy and Ken briefly described new grants available - MTAP, MERP - and that as a "civic partner" with the Town, the Belvidere Community Club qualifies for administrative assistance from LCPC when pursuing future grant funding

Other business/public comment: Andy I. will act as host for future ZOOM hybrid meetings

Motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM by Deb, second by Kathy; motion carried

Next regular meeting scheduled **August 10, 2023, 6:30PM – 8:00PM**, in person at the Belvidere Town Clerk's Office and will include a ZOOM hybrid opportunity as well.