



DRIVE Board Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Knorr, Dave Park, Joe Kantz, Jeb Stotter, Jeff Reber, Jennifer Wakeman, Trevor Finn, Leslie Temple, Sam Schiccatano

MEMBERS ABSENT: Megan Brosious, Justin Ross, Jeff Erdly, John Uehling, James Pachuki, Bashar Hanna, Chris Young

GUESTS PRESENT:

Harry Lewis (community member from Northumberland), Karen Hunter (Community member from Northumberland/Point Township) Tim Hippensteel (Project Manager), Amanda Craig Bradley (Business Outreach Manager), Aidan McDonald (Facilities Manager), Colleen McCollum (Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper)

The meeting was called to order by Jeb Stotter at 8:51 am.

Mr. Stotter welcomed the board, then asked for public comment on agenda items. Harry Lewis and Karen Hunter informed that they do not have comment on an agenda item but that they have a question for the board to consider. Mr. Stotter informed them that he would give them 3 minutes at the end to pose said question. He then moved on to accepting the last meetings minutes.

MINUTES:

- May 3, 2023, Board Meeting: Motion by Jeff Reber to accept the minutes, Trevor Finn seconded the motion; carried unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Dan Knorr presented the Treasurer’s Report. He did a quick review of the financial report. Highlighting the changes to Project by Class now only having two categories Broadband and Sunbury Hospital. Jennifer Wakeman addressed the low income of the Broadband category due to renegotiation of the contract with SkyPacket. Negotiations are completed and back dated to March 1, 2023; we are now waiting on reporting from SkyPacket. You will see a low income for a few months until we receive the reporting.

Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report made by Leslie Temple, seconded by Joe Kantz; carried unanimously.

Executive Director Report: Jennifer Wakeman reported about the NREDA Board trip to Washington DC. This was her first event of this type, and it was worth the trip. She met with ARC, NTCA (rural broadband association), and Xochitl Torres Small Under Secretary for Rural Development. Gained lots of insight and resources for our 5-county area. One specific topic was rural EMS radios, and the cost that rural departments must incur and continue to incur every time the radio technology changes. The USDA acknowledges this problem for rural departments,

and they are actively looking for ways to leverage what they have to help ease rural departments.

Staff Report: Amanda Craig Bradley reported on her ARC program she has been attending. In February she was in Alabama where the topic was workforce development. She was able to view ALEX Alabama's mobile workforce trailer. It is a touchscreen system that you can input credentials and it gives you a specific area that needs workforce. She was also able to tour a water treatment facility. The last session she attended was in Abingdon Virginia the topic was tourism and working with cultural assets. They discussed the problems the town faced with COVID and how that impacted the tourism. She was able to tour the town and see Barter Theater and see how Abingdon is really trying to capitalize on the outdoor activities they have to offer tourists. The last session will be in June in Cumberland Maryland. July will be her graduation ceremony in Washington DC. She's also been working to get an ARC grant for DRIVE. Trevor Finn asked if Amanda was planning on talking with Advanced Central PA regarding Mobil Workforce Development. Amanda informed them that she had already reached out to them with the information she had obtained and was waiting to hear back from them.

Jennifer Wakeman discussed the Connect Humanity Grant that DRIVE has received and what DRIVE plans on using it for. Jennifer, Tim and Amanda have been working on PA Broadband Authority Capital Program Grant which is due in July. Tim, Jennifer, and Aidan will be touring the Graystone Grand Palazzo which was an old UPMC hospital converted into apartments. The tour is to help gather insight for development on the Sunbury Hospital property. Jennifer gave an update on the Professional building; we have filed for the subdivision and zoning permit looks like those will go through in the next month or so.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property Committee: Aidan McDonald reported on the Healthy Workplace Grant DRIVE had received. He has planned to use this grant for an outdoor space that will benefit both the staff and tenants. The outdoor space will be in the private alley next to the building, it will include picnic tables, sunshade, and jersey barriers to block the alleyway off. Property Committee is presenting a plan with a budget not to exceed \$7,500.00 with \$1,000.00 of that being taken care of with the grant money.

Motion to approve outdoor space plan with a budget of \$7,500.00 made by Dan Knorr seconded by Leslie Temple; carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Harry Lewis and Karen Hunter each had three minutes to address the board. Harry Lewis presented a question and news article handouts regarding the Encina Project. Karen Hunter talked about her views on DRIVE's project at Sunbury Textile which brought in a hemp manufacturer. She indicated she views this as a better type of project than Encina.

Jeb Stotter adjourned the meeting at 9:20 am.

NEXT MEETING: The DRIVE Board meets again on Wednesday August 2nd, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. at 418 Railroad Street, Danville PA 17821.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Park, Secretary