

MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

December 2, 2019 10:00 a.m. Mathews Memorial Library

Present: Judy Rowe, Chuck Huntley, Nancy Welch, Willie Love, William Vrooman, Amy Dubois, Greg Lewis, Rob Quartel, Charlene Winter, Mindy Conner, Barbara Van Over, Betsey Burkhard, and Cynthia Hayes.



MINUTES

I. OPENING:

Chair, Judy Rowe, opened the meeting with a welcome to new Broadband Advisory Board members Lori Buchanan and Jay Bass (not present).

II. STAFF UPDATE:

County Administrator Mindy Conner shared that she is still corresponding with Chuck at CIT.

III. MINUTES:

Secretary Cynthia Hayes distributed minutes from the October 28, 2019 and September 30, 2019 meetings.

IV. PRESENTATION:

Wyatt Hutson and Amy Dubois attended the Building Communities Conference. Wyatt was not in attendance to present, but Amy noted she learned that Google Mapping is useful for data analysis.

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Survey Response Update- Chuck Huntley reported over 100 paper surveys were inputted over the Thanksgiving holiday, a total of 1,711 households viewed the online Broadband Survey and 629 surveys submitted, as of December 1, 2019. Chuck distributed and presented two documents: *Broadband Survey Un-Official Results* and *Survey Comments*. Chuck noted the majority of property types was home/home-based business, the majority of service type was cellphone or hot spot, and the percentage of survey submitters satisfied with their speed/capacity was 27%. He noted the Survey Comments were copied directly from surveys.

Bill Vrooman noted there seems to be more of a money (affordability) issue than internet access issue with Mathews students. Judy Rowe expressed that reliability is the issue at her home. Betsey Burkhard noted that many people expressed not knowing anything about the Broadband survey.

- b. Outreach – Judy Rowe acknowledged the following for their efforts on Survey Day/Election Day: Betsey Burkhard, Jessica Christiansen, Amy Dubois, Cynthia Hayes, Bill Vrooman, Barbara Bergman, Phebe Hyde, Charlene Winter, Emily Allen, and Faith Lewis. Others whose efforts were noted included: Jerry L'heureux at Food Lion, Meals on Wheels drivers and cafeteria staff, Mathews Department of Social Services Director Tiffany Gordon and staff, Dee Russell for November 30th Made in Mathews weekend event, Chuck Huntley and Greg Lewis interviews on WXGM 9.1 Morning Show, Mindy Conner for the Post Cards, Nancy Welch and School Board Office staff for paper copies and URL cards, Barbara Van Over and her contacts with the four Survey pickup/drop-off locations, Betsey Burkhard's contact with the 13 post offices, and Carolyn Taylor and Josie Thorpe.

Judy reminded members we have two more weeks for distributing and collecting surveys. It is her hope the Post Cards will land in citizen's mailboxes today, as they were mailed on Tuesday, November 26, 2019.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Other Distribution - Where can we go? Cynthia Hayes stated she has secured an updated list of the Mathews Ministerial Association, and this will help get Surveys/URL cards out to more people. Barbara Van Over volunteered to take surveys directly to two churches in the county. Rob Quartel suggested forming a "Data Committee".

Chuck Huntley asked if we should consider extending the Broadband Survey deadline, and Judy suggested we look at this options as we draw closer to the deadline. Charlene Winter asked how could we broadcast *Broadband Moments*, and Chuck suggested the county's Facebook page/*Mathews Talk*. Betsey noted that Survey information was sent out to Queens Creek Association and Mathews Yacht Club.

Judy noted other efforts listed on the Meeting Agenda: December 14th Survey Day/Christmas Parade, Nancy Welch is scheduling an *All Call* to parents and emergency contacts, Chuck and Greg's reappearance on WXGM Morning Show, and submission of another letter and outreach photos to the Gazette-Journal

- b. Tally - CIT's Chuck Kirby and Jean Plymale are tracking our data to help us with mapping and are working with Chuck Huntley and Thomas Jenkins. The CIT staff recommends we form two teams: Management Team and Policy Team. The Selection Committee will include Rob, Mindy, Nancy, Amy, Julie, and Chuck H. and will select and contact members for these two teams.
- c. Next Public Forum on Broadband – It was suggested we invite someone from Dominion or the Secretary of Commerce. Possible Forum dates are January 6 or January 13, 2020. Amy suggested Telehealth for one of our Public Forums.
- d. Judy reported she had a conversation with BAB member Desmond Smith, and he shared what Gloucester is doing, suggesting we collaborate with them.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

SAVE THESE DATES:

Supervisors Meeting Tuesday, December 17, 2019
1:00 pm Historic Courthouse

BAB Meeting Monday, January 6, 2020
7:00 pm Rescue Squad Building

Betsey suggested we meet in two weeks to determine whether to extend the Survey deadline, and the group agreed. After further discussion, it was decided Judy and Chuck would make the decision.

VIII. Adjourned