



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
20 April 2021 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Rob Quartel, Judy Rowe, Edith Turner, Amy Dubois, Debbie Falco, Dee Russell, Greg Lewis, Hal Bourque, Jeff Beekhoo, Julie Kaylor, David Blank, Barbara Van Over, Phil Dunn, and Michael Anthony.

**OPENING:** Judy Rowe called the meeting to order at 9:00 am with a greeting and a declaration that things are happening in Mathews, and we are getting broadband for sure.

**MINUTES:** The Minutes from the 4/6/21 Meeting were emailed to members. Judy Rowe asked for a motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Rob Quartel made a motion to accept the Minutes as presented, and Amy Dubois seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Updates:**

**Smart Poles (lights) & Towers:** Jeff Beekhoo reported the lights on the Smart Poles will be programmed to turn on from dusk to 11:00, as Sheriff Barrick suggested. All of the Smart Poles are up and working. There is a software that tells Jeff how much usage each Smart Pole is getting. Rob suggested that Judy obtain that information and share with the group on a weekly basis. Rob asked what kind of data will the software produce (i.e. how many unique users and how many minutes used). Jeff is going to check on this. Jeff reported that the towers are still in works, as he is working with David to obtain the lease contracts with Verizon. Jeff has included the costs for erecting the two towers in the costs analysis for CARES Act funds. Rob asked Jeff who would use these towers, and Jeff responded the county would be able to lease it to Verizon, but the primary purpose would to serve the unserved homes in the area. Jeff shared that he is working with Harris Radio in upgrading Mathews County's system with a fiber backbone system.

**Signs:** Dee Russell reported she has been promised the signs will ship no later than Monday, or she will request a reduction in shipping costs. The poles have been ordered at Moughon's, and she has lined up people to install the poles and signs.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**VATI Grant with ABB** - David Blanks reported a meeting was held with the Housing Authority. He is waiting on Atlantic Broadband to submit their plan. They are putting together a team to do tracks and measure, and looking forward to the milestone dates. There will be a subcommittee (David, Jeff, and Julie) monitoring and tracking Atlantic Broadband's progress. There should be more to report after the committee's next meeting.

**VATI Grant with Open Broadband** - Julie Kaylor reported she has received email from Carole Steele and will touch base with her.

**Stakeholder Focus Groups:** Judy reported the Public Schools group met and some really great information came out from the meeting (i.e. a parent reported issues with four children using devices in the home at the same time caused lagging for some and no issues for the other two students). The issue of internships came up, and as a result there is the potential for virtual internships in the future. This was an interchange between Cynthia Hayes and Barbara Van Over, a retired administrator from Northern Virginia. The second Public School Brainstorming Session will be held today at 2:00 PM on Zoom.

**Bank of America Building:** Judy reported that Hal Bourque called her about the Bank of America building. Hal asked members to spread the word about the availability of half of the building for lease, and requested we direct anyone interested to contact him. Judy noted that Hal is head of the Economic Development Authority.

**Telemedicine and Digital Learning Grant (USDA)** Judy attended one of the webinars and will be attending another this afternoon. She will report back to the group at the next meeting.

**Digital Literacy at Old Peninsula Schoolhouse:** Judy is looking for volunteers to help provide some digital literacy instruction at the Old Peninsula Schoolhouse. Please let Judy know if you are interested or know someone who would help. Judy noted this is one of the things the group had hoped we would be able to do in placing a Smart Pole there.

**Salute to Randy Applegate:** Judy learned yesterday that Chuck Huntley had gotten a lot of the technology done in the Harry Ward Auditorium (cameras installed). Randy Applegate (Teacher of the Year) has been providing instruction on how to use the newly installed equipment that was funded by CARES Act money. Judy would like to partner with Randy and his students in recording and broadcasting School Board and Board of Supervisor's meetings. Judy salutes Randy Applegate for all the work he has done to help with Mathews County's broadband mission.

**Next steps:** Jeff Beekhoo reported in the next couple weeks we be looking at getting a final cost analysis for getting broadband access for sthe rest of the unserved homes in Mathews County. He wanted the group to know there is another round of CARES money coming in approximately three weeks: round one can only be used for labor and not for broadband at all, and round two can be used for broadband services (next year). We have to make a decision on how we can fund these areas of unserved homes, and present to the Board of Supervisors the cost that it will take to bring full coverage to Mathews. Then this group can decide if we need to apply for additional grants. Rob asked Jeff if there is funding for telehealth in the CARES Act funding, and Jeff responded yes, but not in round one of the funding that is coming up.

**Other Business:** Michael Anthony asked Jeff if he heard him correctly in that Atlantic Broadband is going to bring fiber to every home, and Jeff responded that is the hope. Judy noted that between the two grants, this will involve 600 homes. Judy noted Atlantic Broadband workers have been in the area measuring.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CALENDAR:

BAB Meeting: 18 May 2021 9:00 AM on Zoom  
BOS Meeting: 25 May 6:00 PM at MHS Auditorium in person  
BAB Meeting: 1 June 2021 9:00 AM on Zoom  
BAB Meeting: 15 June 2021 9:00 AM on Zoom  
Alert: there are 5 Tuesdays in June!