



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
9 November 2021 9AM - 10AM
in person at Mathews Memorial Library and
virtually on Zoom
MINUTES

Present in person: Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Amy Dubois,
Dee Russell, Joe Syslo

On Zoom: Rob Quartel, Jeff Beekhoo, Donnie
Willie Love, Sandy Wanner, Jullie

Lewis,
Kaylor, Page Herbert

The Chair called the regular BAB meeting to order. Judy appointed Amy Dubois as a substitute voting member to have a quorum, as noted in the bylaws. No vote was needed so she was not required to take any action.

MINUTES: The minutes from the 10/5/21 and 10/19/21 meetings were approved as emailed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Judy requested updates on BAB projects. David was not available to report on the ABB/VATI/4 County project.

Open Broadband meeting will be tomorrow. Judy is going in person to get some answers. TV Channel 3 News did a story about Gloucester using a water tower but did not include Mathews in the story.

Greg reported 25 new MiFis To Go in service. He is still waiting on some more of the antennas. He brought one to show us. There are some people who cannot get access where there is no cell service. Jeff reported that you cannot choose providers so they do not work everywhere.

Julie said she had an LCE network extender provided by Verizon to her house. It works off of broadband. She suggested we check it out. Greg said it less than five who had not been able to get service. Judy reported many stories of how many people were being helped.

VMRC training happened and fully trained the library staff on the mandatory reporting. They have a dedicated laptop computer to help with any one who comes in for help. The staff was amazed at how in depth and detailed the reporting actually is. It is a web-based portal and there is no app for it. The library is reaching out to the watermen.

Smart Poles are reaching end of year service contract at end of December. We will put together the data as to which poles to keep and how to fund the service. The BAB will have to make a decision as to what to do for the future. Like the MiFis they are bandaids. In reality we still do not have anyone connected yet! ARPA funds may be available. Data is available.

Information to the Community:

Thanks to Bette Dillehay and Greg Lewis for extending an invitation to the BAB to report to the Mathews Rotary Club. Judy and Tyler did a presentation to the club which was well received.

Jeff represented the BAB at the West Mathews Fall Fair and talked with people about the Smart Poles and demonstrated how they could use them. Jeff found interesting people who were using the poles. It was a lot of positive feedback.

Joe reported that Wittman would certainly include Mathews at the next town hall meeting. Mike Beavers had reported to Judy that Mathews was not included in Wittman's last newsletter about his support of broadband in various counties.

NEW BUSINESS:

Towers: Jeff has been working with a tower company. They do not need a geo analysis. They are designing the maximum height, etc. Jeff has given all the information along with site maps, about 80% of what they need. It looks like this will fast track the towers a bit. They are requiring no charge to putting this together for both locations. Sabre Industries.

Back Haul: have to find out when the new round of funding is coming out. New administration working on last mile and middle mile. They are taking a step back so as not to double fund an area, We have to wait for them to get their ducks in a row.

Judy reported on shocking news from Kyle Rosner in the Commonwealth Connect newsletter: unserved (25/3 or less) and underserved areas (100/20 or less) 100/100 is only possible with fiber and will have to be back haul related. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: may provide us the funding we need.

The Affordable Connectivity Fund, \$30-a-month, is now going to be permanent for those who qualify. It will be administered through the FCC.

Radio System update:

Willie reported Harris is getting engineering on the towers and waiting for delivery of equipment. It should be the first quarter of next year to be fully cut over.

Judy is going to report to the School Board on broadband progress at their next meeting.

The following calendar will allow the BAB to align with our new meeting requirements. BOS Meeting now 22 November 2021. BAB next meeting will hold hybrid meeting at Fire Station One at 7:00 PM. BAB will meet morning of 13 December 2021 at the Library. BOS Meeting will be at 6:00 PM the same day. Final 2021 BAB Meeting will be Tuesday, 28 December 2021 at 7:00 PM at FD Station One.

Sandy requested a packet from the BAB for the two new BOS members to be included with other materials.

ADJOURN

There being no further business Joe Syslo moved to adjourn, Dee Russell seconded the motion.

Submitted by: Judy Rowe, serving in place of Cynthia Hayes.