



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
11 OCTOBER 2022 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
In-person at Library or on ZOOM
MINUTES

OPENING: Please introduce yourselves.
Minutes not available

Judy Rowe, Mike Senyk, Marshall Ruffin, Rob Quartel , Jeff Beekhoo, Phil Dunn, James Knighton, Sherry Hamilton, Page Herbert, Ramona Wilson, Judi Green, Jedon Thompson, Greg Lewis

Old Business

Rowe update on VATI: We had a site visit from HUD came to both sites pleased with what the four counties and the company are doing. Project moving forward. No rollout more like a dam burst 14 separate projects in Mathews alone. Goes to tech ops then marketing then connections this project will be complete by January. 1400 homes for the four counties.

Project became bigger than any of us imagined.

VATI with Gloucester OBB 180 homes will have access to that. Climbers should have been on site yesterday.

Once than equipment is up and tested (over the next couple of weeks) this too will be turned over to tech ops and then marketing.

Class of broadband installers will have two sessions. We need to help with recruitment. Training takes two weekends and ends with a certified broadband installer.

Affordable Connectivity Program - We have had hiccups in plan Department of Ed and FCC listed Mathews incorrectly. Every child in school in Mathews has access for \$30 per month discount.

Greg – received funding for year 1 from CARES act monies. Second year funding came thru ARPA. This year we applied for ARPA again but only received funding for 1-2 months of services. BAB asked BOS to provide funding from the county budget.

MIFIs digital lit workshops begins today after a 3-year hiatus. Initially we are advertising classes to be hosted by the library. We will also offer off site classes.

Monopole Towers:

Conditional use permit approved 6-0 by Planning Commission but BOS has not voted as yet. Questions about towers being in wetlands Why we chose those sites. Judy told the board we had spent two years looking for sites. Wanted to use county owned property.

Judy spent a great deal of time prospecting. We decided to build the towers ourselves. This is a win-win for the county because the towers will bring in revenue. The 2-mile rule eliminated lots of sites.

Bohannon and Rescue Squad were the two most ideal locations. Lots of turnover in county staff and information was not passed on.

Jeff – Because we needed a mix of cell and fixed wireless coverage, the location of the poles was made even more difficult. A great deal of planning went into this.

James Knighton went out with army corps to look at wetlands. They will be added to the revised site plan. Rob asked: Has the BOS has been fully briefed? Judy is waiting for the revised drawings to come in so we can be definitive.

Is there any way to expedite the revised site plan? Jeff feels it will be done in another week. It will then be presented to the BOS.

Ramona: Bds have come in for building the towers.

RF exposure has been an issue. Judy has addressed this with the BOS. Marshall: wave lengths are too long to affect cells and molecules.

Judy spoke to real estate agents. Prospective clients want high speed broadband.
Made maps available

New Business

List of VATI Grant addresses is easily available for Breezeline and OBB for citizens to look up their addresses and contact providers.

Breezeline grant must be completed by Jan 2023, OBB is August 2023.

November meeting date must be changed. Greg moved and Marshall seconded that meeting be moved to November 15. Motion carried
Meeting adjourned 9:57