



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING
18 January 2022 9:00-10:00AM
virtually on Zoom
MINUTES**

Present On Zoom: Emily Allen, Jeff Beekhoo, Phil Dunn, Deb Falco, Page Herbert, Julie Kaylor, Donnie Lewis, Greg Lewis, Rob Quartel, Judy Rowe (Chair), Dee Russell, Kerin Schwartz, Joe Syslo, Nancy Welch, 804-.....003

The Chair called the regular BAB meeting to order.

MINUTES: The minutes from the 1/04/21 meeting were approved as emailed.

BACKGROUND: Chairperson Judy Rowe noted that the board is entering its third year of operation and that, given the progress we have made, our philosophy would be "Gloat and Promote."

OLD BUSINESS:

Calendar – BOS set up calendar which presents BAB with a dilemma. One possibility is to go to one mtg/month. Things are going to start happening quickly and 1 mtg may not be enough.

VATI Grant with ABB: (Willie & Judy) reported that the backbone project is ahead of schedule and nearing completion. FCC Affordability Connectivity Program provides funding for discounts of up to \$30 per month based on financial need to support tele-health, distance learning and work from home.

VATI Grant with OBB: (Judy) – VATI grant with OBB JEFF LLOYD PUBLIC WIFI Discussion group want to choose places that will serve the most people optimum usage. Marinas and campgrounds too seasonal.

Smart Poles: (Jeff) – cards updated Jeff poles have been updated and are good for the next six months

MiFis To Go/Digital Literacy: (Greg) – MIFIs to Go funding is good through the end of June. We are looking for alternative funding after that. Digital literacy is in flux because of COVID. We hope to get underway as soon as current spike is past and may do a remote component. The program is still being developed.

Radio System: (Willie) – The project remains on schedule

Election: BAB Officers 2022 (Judy & Greg) – Election of Officers for 2022 was completed with the confirmation of Phil Dunn as Secretary and Julie Kaylor as our Technical Representative from the county.

NEW BUSINESS:

Information to BOS: The BAB will schedule meetings so that the BOS is given sufficient time to review our reports prior to their meetings.

Broadband authority – Joe spoke with new interim county administrator. Looks like it will be another month or two before they can deal with new issues. The paperwork is ready to go but must wait for BOS approval. He anticipates no BOS action before March. Judy remarked that we can schedule our public hearing on their calendar.

Julie – noted that there has been no info on scheduling a public hearing. BOS understands that we want to have a work session with the BOS. BOS does not seem positively inclined at this point. The work session may be scheduled next week.

Jeff is meeting with power crews and creating the geological plots surveying property to locate the tower bases and begin construction drawings. Jeff also received the total cost to build out the backhaul. NPIA(?) Grant is not due for a while so there is time. FRS has been done. Next step is to meet with both counties.

ABB Fee Affordability Program – Families who meet financial need requirements will receive up to a \$30.00/month discount on the broadband

plan that meets their family's usage requirements. The program seeks to promote tele-health, distance learning and work from home.

Public Information Sessions – Rob and Joe agreed to conduct public information sessions on local radio stations as opportunities arise.

Meeting Schedule – The group agreed to continue to meet monthly on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00AM for the foreseeable future.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

There being no further business Joe Syslo moved to adjourn, ~~XXXXX~~ seconded the motion.

Next Meeting: Feb. 8, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Respectfully Submitted by: Phil Dunn, Secretary