



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 14 February 2023 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
In-person at Library AND ON ZOOM
MINUTES

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:01AM

1/10/23 MINUTES, emailed, were approved as written.

ATTENDEES: Judy Rowe, Jeff Beekhoo, Tyler Beekhoo, Rob Quartel, Judi Green, Marshall Ruffin, Deb Falco, Page Herbert, Ramona Wilson, Jedon Thompson, Willie Love, Rev Dr. Melissa Mason, and Phil Dunn.

OLD BUSINESS:

VATI Grants Update: Willie Love, Judy Rowe

Addresses for both grants can be found at mathewscountyva.gov. We are winding these down in many ways. Info for VATI grants addresses have changed so checkout the website. Information for OBB has not changed.

Willie - Of the 15 VATI projects all were released to marketing last Thursday, approximately 461 passings. There were 42 pending orders in Peach Point as of last Thursday. We are waiting for things to dry out to complete project.

Breezeline VATI address: To get connected contact <https://events.breezeline.us/VATI> or [Reggie Spivey](mailto:rspivey@breezeline.com) Direct Sales Representative (410) 490-6082
rspivey@breezeline.com

Open Broadband VATI email address: Contact openbb.net

ACP/LECAP:

Nancy Welch and Judy are going to do a new push out of ACP and LECAP information to all those who have children in school. But there are others who qualify. Everyone needs to check this out.

Breezeline's landing page for the **ACP** program: <https://www.breezeline.com/acp>
VA DHCD **LECAP** page [Line Extension Customer Assistance Program \(LECAP\)](#)

We are focusing on these two things now to hopefully increase the take rate.

Election of Officers 2023: Judy presented slate of nominations for Greg who had lost connection. Judy Rowe, Chair; Willie Love, Vice-Chair; Phil Dunn, Secretary; Joe Syslo, Financial Coordinator; Page Herbert, Media Reporter; Rob Quartel, Advisor; Marshall Ruffin, MD, Advisor; Greg Lewis, Library Tech Director; Michael Anthony, MCPS Tech Director; Judi Green, our website manager; Donnie Lewis, MVFD President & Project Manager for Bohannon tower; Scot Bergman, MVRS President & Project Manager for Hudgins Tower.

With no other nominations, Marshall motioned to approve, Melissa Mason seconded. 5 - 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Towers: Jeff, Judy

Photos of both sites as being prepared for the tower deliveries.

2023: The Plan Timeline, Jeff Beekhoo

Slightly behind schedule due to weather. Should be back on schedule by the 14th of March and finish by April 4, 2023.

Policy Committee: James Knighton - no report.

If we present to the BOS at their next meeting, Judy would like to include Jeff's Quarterly plan.

We are still mulling how we should celebrate ending the construction phase of the grants. Ribbon cutting/Mock fiber connection/splicing? Fiber connection ceremony. It would be nice to invite politicians, but the dates are slippery. We need to identify a date that won't be affected by weather. May Faire is a possibility. It's not that far away. Using the tower locations is also problematic because the sites won't accommodate a big crowd. We are entering our marketing phase now.

Marshall Ruffin asked: What proportion of grant funding is going to Breezeline and OBB? In terms of VATI the State puts in 50%, the County 25%, and the Provider 25%. These are basic breakdown approximately. Funding is based on households to be served. There are many other facets that we will explore once we get these two grants completed. Managing VATI has been very time consuming (detailed). Lots of moving pieces.

Ramona Wilson reported the special inspection design engineer checks all the construction and makes sure it is up to code. Testing of concrete materials: at Rescue Squad it tested needed to test at 5,000 psi, it did at more than 7,000 psi. Judy will present BAB budget request at next BOS meeting so that we can begin discussing these other opportunities. Ramona asked Judy to present that and the rationale behind the Position asked for in the proposal. Judy agreed.

ADJOURN

Willie motioned and Marshall seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 AM

Calendar:

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 28 February 2023 6:00 PM Historic CH

BAB Meeting: Tuesday, 14 March 2023; 9:00 AM Library

Submitted, Phil Dunn, BAB Secretary

