



**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING 13 JUNE 2023 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM**

In-person at Library and on ZOOM

Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Deb Falco, Page Herbert, Jeff Beekehoo, Judi Green, Rob Quartel, Willie Love, Joe Syslo

BREAKING NEWS! Jeff – This was such a successful project that once VATI grant comes out, we are looking at doing another joint application with Breezeline to cover the rest of Mathews County.

We are hoping to get the Rescue Squad tower erected within the next month. Permits have been approved so we are clear to construct the tower.

OLD BUSINESS

Breezeline VATI Grant Project: Willie - Everything on the initial grant has been turned over to marketing. We are getting people connected!

OpenBroadband VATI Grant Project: Joe – At Last BOS mtg. Supervisor Jackie Ingram had been connected and was very publicly supportive of BAB efforts. Joe has received an update from Heather. They are identifying hub locations, meeting with landowners to work out agreements and want to begin building out hub locations this week. In addition, they will be knocking on doors of those who have not yet responded to door hangers concerning adding service.

Towers: Jeff – Once we get the next tower up, we will be working with Ramona getting the RFP out for providers to jump on. When dates are announced, we will be submitting another VATI grant application for fixed wireless providers. Final inspection at Bohannon is scheduled for next week.

Website: Page – Has begun work on a basic WordPress web site. The site will contain the ability to be creative with both design and content. There will be sections for feedback, photos, speed test, staff photos, zoom recordings etc. Should have something to send over soon. A discussion of various logo candidates commenced.....

Radio System: Willie – No new information to add to last month's report.

Smart Pole at Ruritan Club – No new information to add to last month's report.

Telehealth - Best Buy has teamed with a telehealth company to provide home health services. Perhaps we could contact them to see if they have a “plug and play” telehealth service with training (a telehealth Geek Squad) to which the county could apply.

NEW BUSINESS

Towers: RFPs for cellular and for wireless - Jeff, Ramona (Discussed under Old Business.) Joe would like to be involved with the RFPs.

Funding for future projects, 7 & 8 – Jeff Project #8 is the backhaul. Where are we? Everything has been on hold. NTIA grants are being held up by counties challenging accuracy of data for identifying underserved counties. Middle mile is also being challenged. Lots of opportunities, but lots of work needs to be done to guarantee equity. We have enough bandwidth coming into the area.

GI Festival: Can we get some volunteers to work a tent there? Judy will be out of town. Any help will be appreciated.

Saturday markets: Need volunteers to work those. Once a month? Several folks have volunteered in the past.

Parade Float Committee? Judy - This is going to be our celebration. We will have six projects completed by fall. Donnie is the float master. Two parades in the fall Homecoming and Christmas. Dates to be determined.

Invitation Crystal Duke from Breezeline and Judy have been invited to sit on a panel during a three-day “Broadband Together” conference on public private partnerships.

Only two Mathews school buses have mi-fi connections. Judy wishes to recommend that buses be equipped so students can do schoolwork during bus rides. BAB should strongly recommend that all public meetings be streamed.

ADJOURN – Meeting was adjourned at 9:48

CALENDAR

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 23 May 2023 6:00 PM Historic Courthouse

BAB Meeting: Tuesday, 13 June 2023 9:00 AM Library & Zoom

Gwynn’s Island Festival: Saturday, 24 June 2023 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 27 June 2023 6:00 PM Historic Courthouse

FYI

Addresses listed for both grants: mathewscountyva.gov

Breezeline VATI address: mathewscountyva.gov

Contact to get connected on the VATI Grant addresses

<https://events.breezeline.us/VATI>

AND Reggie Spivey, Direct Sales Representative

(410) 490-6082 rspivey@breezeline.com

Open Broadband VATI address: Contact openbb.net **Need Phone Number**

Breezeline landing page for the ACP program: <https://www.breezeline.com/acp>

VA DHCD LECAP page Line Extension Customer Assistance Program (LECAP)