

## Mathews Broadband Advisory Board

Organizational Meeting, Monday, 1 July 2019, 4:00 PM Mathews Memorial Library  
Amy Dubois, Liaison BOS; Judy Rowe, Interim Chair; Nancy Welch, Rob Quartel, Chuck  
Huntley, Bill Vrooman, Greg Lewis, Buzz Lambert, stakeholder

### Minutes

Judy Rowe welcomed the group. The seven members present (B. Vrooman was unable to attend) introduced themselves as to how they were involved in this technology initiative.

Board Members: We reviewed the resolutions and the way the group was appointed

Meetings: The group decided to meet on Mondays following the BOS meetings (4th Tuesdays) at 10:00 AM in the library. With guidelines from the resolutions, the group must report to the supervisors monthly and report to the public quarterly.

The first task was to recruit stakeholders to the board in eight categories: education, business, economic development, medical, tourism, young professionals, emergency and county staff. Numerous suggestions were made for Judy to pursue. The suggestion was made to have three in each category so that they could meet together independently and then see that one attended the meetings.

Some issues were discussed that had arisen in the past six months as citizens had continued to speak out in favor of a more aggressive stance from the county to bring affordable, accessible, reliable, high-speed universal broadband to Mathews County: Sheriff Barrick's issues: computers in cars not working in parts of the county; admin phones not working when Atlantic Broadband goes down; Nancy Welch talked about lack of sufficient access for schools and students; Buzz Lambert described problems of broadband failure at the YMCA.

Rob Wittman's Broadband Task Force Meeting in Tappahannock: Judy reported that he had mentioned accessing ATONs to possibly provide coverage in our areas on the water and his staff had further said that it was in talks now with internet providers to see if it would actually work. Nancy suggested that a letter be written by the BOS to Wittman about using Mathews County as a model to try it out.

Questions were raised about rules governing our meetings. Mindy had told Judy that we would follow the guidelines of the resolutions. Judy will check further on whether they need to be advertised to invite the public and the press. Also of concern was how to notify supervisors of the meeting schedule.

Another meeting was suggested to finalize the list of stakeholders before it was sent to the BOS. Monday 15 July was the date decided on 10 AM at the library.

Meeting adjourned.