



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD
11 July 2023 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
In-person at the Library and on ZOOM
Minutes

INTRODUCTIONS: Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Phil Dunn, Pearl Foster, Page Herbert, Rob Quartel, Judi Green, Tyler Beekhoo, Joe Syslo, Willie Love, Joanie Close, James Knighton, Marshall Ruffin

MINUTES: by email – approved by voice vote

OLD BUSINESS

Breezeline VATI Grant Project: Willie, Judi Green - Doing the final close out now. Gathering documentation. Thus far we have completed 249 out of 462 possible connections. We are proud of what we have accomplished thus far.

OpenBroadband VATI Grant Project: Joe, Greg Reid – Received excel worksheet. We are not doing well. Thus far only about 10 % of possible customers have subscribed. We are replacing faulty Nokia equip with Terrana. OBB has a new technology called “Fiberhood.” It uses a point of presence in a neighborhood that goes from a wireless hub to a fiber home connection for the last mile. There is a grant program for disadvantaged, low income properties. This system has not been deployed yet. In addition, we don’t know if it can be used in this grant. OBB is looking for climbers to remove the Nokia equipment. We have a deadline coming up in August. OBB has had a large turnover in staff. No one there seems to know what is going on.

Towers: Monopole Tower at Hudgins: Judy (PowerPoint) The tower is up, and the fence is up as well. Next steps: Tower at Bohannon is inspected and ready to roll. Dominion Power has not connected power and meters to the Hudgins tower. We are hearing from residents who are desperate for service. We need a timeline for the community to provide guidance.

Website: Page – making good progress on creating a preview. Seeking content from board members to flesh out site. Recordings and minutes will be included.

Office Space for Virtual Office Space (Pearl Foster): Judy and others will meet tomorrow at 7:30 to discuss possibilities.

Line Extension Customer Assistance Program: State is supposed to change income requirements for hook up assistance, but has not done so yet.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a presentation on AI tonight at the library. Everyone is invited.

Towers: Tyler (What's next?) RFPs for cellular and for wireless - Jeff, Ramona At least one draft maybe two for wireless provider(s) has/have been written. Joe is supposed to be involved in this process. We need to talk to Ramona to get latest info. Even though towers have yet to be fully inspected, RFPs can be written in the interim. 15, 30 day deadline? Could put out an RFI to get the ball rolling. Judy asks Judi Green to please set up a meeting with Ramona and John More as soon as possible. More is waiting for a "load letter" from the contractor before Morr can apply. Judy will call the contractor to expedite this process.

Future Permits: James – We want the process to move as smoothly as possible. Please review the permitting process for where we are going next and make suggestions on how to make this seamless. James says this process should be relatively simple compared to the towers. Requests must go before both the planning commission and the BOS. Individuals may want to place data/repeater poles on their own property.

Market Days – We did a booth last year. Had a lot of traffic. Need volunteers.

Parade Float Committee: Donnie Lewis, Greg Lewis, Cynthia Hayes, - Judy is looking for a place to meet and plan float construction.

ADJOURN – Meeting adjourned at 9:50

CALENDAR

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 25 July 2023 6:00 PM Historic Courthouse

BAB Meeting: Tuesday, 8 August 2023 9:00 AM Library & Zoom

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, Breezeline Direct Sales Representative

(410) 490-6082 rspivey@breezeline.com

Open Broadband VATI address: Contact openbb.net

Breezeline landing page for the ACP program: <https://www.breezeline.com/acp>
VA DHCD LECAP page Line Extension Customer Assistance Program