

**MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
6 August 2020 9AM - 10AM on ZOOM**



Present Hal Bourque, Amy Dubois, Judy Rowe, Rob Quartel, Greg Lewis,
William Vooman, Debbie Falco, Chuck Huntley, Thomas Jenkins, and Cynthia Hayes

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order: Judy Rowe called the meeting to order with a welcome.
- II. MINUTES (not available)
- III. OLD BUSINESS:

Both **VATI Grants** (with Gloucester, Middlesex and Open Broadband, LLC and with Lancaster, Middlesex, Caroline and ABB) were presented to the Board of Supervisors and BBAB was quite successful in receiving unanimous approval from the Board of Supervisors for a \$90,000 and \$185,000 funding match from the county.

Digital Literacy: Judy shared a draft Digital Literacy Plan for Mathews County, and Greg Lewis shared his contribution to this draft plan. (see handouts)

Lifeline Webinar: Judy has been in touch with Senator Warner's office. See referenced the article the Senator wrote regarding a coordinating with other federal agencies to inform low-income families of the availability of free broadband services. Judy noted that our schools are going totally virtual and the need is even greater for broadband in our county.

Policy Team: Judy asked Thomas if there was anything new, and he responded there was not anything locally, but he does meet monthly with his counterparts across the Middle Peninsula.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

Consultants: Judy noted the BBAB has a contract Jeff Beekhoo and his staff (Broadband Telecom) and he is helping with the VATI grants and writing the BBAB plan.

The Plan for Universal Coverage of Mathews County: Jeff and his group will be working on a five-year plan to get broadband service to every resident and business in the county. Bill Vrooman asked that he information from residents with children who contact BBAB members regarding broadband service. Bill is currently working on the Vision grant application for the school district.

Meetings: Judy recommended we continue having BBAB meetings twice monthly. She will send out meeting information.

V. **Other Business:** Amy Dubois talked about the Connect Grant and shared she is willing to work on it. Judy Rowe asked Hal Bourque to pass on information about BBAB to the Middle Peninsula Regional Economic Development Board, as he is the Chair.

VI. **ADJOURN:** With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:44 am.

CALENDAR: BAB: 18 AUGUST 2020 9:00 AM Zoom
BOS: 25 AUGUST 2020 6:00 PM MHS Auditorium