



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
9 August 2022 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
In-person at Library or on ZOOM

MINUTES

IN ATTENDANCE: Judy Rowe, Greg Lewis, Sidney Ricks, Willie Love, Jeff Beekhoo, Marshall Ruffin, Donnie Lewis, Page Herbert, Kerin Swartz, Ramona Wilson, James Knighton, Noah Davila, Rob Quartel, and Cynthia Hayes

MINUTES: Judy noted the 7/12/22 minutes were emailed. Greg Lewis moved to accept the minutes as presented. Cynthia Hayes seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS: Judy asked members to introduce themselves. New member is Sidney Ricks of Northern Virginia and Mathews (his second residence).

OLD BUSINESS:

FCC/Affordable Connectivity Plan: Judy reported the affordability piece is a huge piece and part of our broadband plan. The FCC has come out with a plan that will hugely impact Mathews County. Judy gave a big thanks to Nancy Welch, Tiffany Gordon, Greg Lewis, Crystal Duke (Breezeline), and another young lady with Open Broadband whose name she does not recall, but who has worked with this initiative. There is an opportunity (through the FCC) for those who qualify to receive \$30/month payment to internet providers (Breezeline) for internet service. All three schools in Mathews qualify. In addition, Breezeline is offering a \$29.99 per month. The BAB Committee is making every effort to get this information out to the citizens of Mathews County.

The Rembrantt (Tele-stroke Technology) program w/Riverside:

Willie Love reported there is a scheduled meeting on Friday with Verizon representatives who will provide information on what first-net service they can offer. He noted that AT&T is a first net provider for the state; however, we cannot get AT&T service in Mathews County.

VATI Grant with Breezeline:

Willie Love reported in the last project meeting licenses are in place, and “We are right at the edge of the dominos falling in place.” The cable has been laid in the Cricket Hill Road area. Mr. Ricks asked Willie what is meant by splicing, and Willie explained.

Judy noted we will have some sort of “light-up” when the two projects are completed. She had hope we would be able to do this at Market Days.

MiFis To Go/Digital Literacy: Greg reported on the Mathews County Memorial Library **Niche Academy**. Greg Lewis shared plans from two years ago when he began looking at how the Library can help with digital literacy in Mathews. Starting in September, several digital literacy classes will be offered through the Mathews Library (tech basics, cyber security). Computers and materials are in place as a result of a grant. The Niche Academy is popular platform for online digital literacy training (the link is on the Library’s home page).

VATI Grant with OBB: Noah Davila reported the electricity was scheduled to be installed two weeks ago, but is now on schedule for this Thursday. After this point, the climbers will be scheduled.

Installer Training: begins 10 September at RCC (Judy reported for Joe Syslo)

Smart Poles: Judy reported they are operational now.

Radio System: Willie will defer and report at the next meeting.

Earth Stations (middle mile back haul): Jeff reported he is working with a group out of Virginia Beach (SES Satellite).

Towers: Jeff reported there have been a few setbacks (title search issues). The stamp drawings will be done by this Friday. Things should then start moving quickly. Judy said we are now looking at a n eight-week delay.

NEW BUSINESS:

Policy Committee: Judy noted that when the board was first formed, the state work with us to ensure... Everyone on the original Policy Committee is now gone, with the exception of Nancy Welch. Judy suggest James will take up the lead, Ramona, Greg, and Donnie will help. Judy will ask Nancy Welch and Joe Syslo.

OBB: Judy noted plans were to make contact with 180 homes to let them know what we are doing. She has not heard back from (?) as to what we’re going to do.

Public Information:

Saturday Markets - August 13, 20, 27; September (9:00 am - 1:00 pm)

Podcast: Judy & Melissa Mason at DHCD (taping 11 August)

MCPS Book Day - 24 August 3:00 pm - 7:00pm. Nancy Welch will also do an ALL-Call .

Market Days – September 9 & 10, 2022

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Rob Quartel moved to adjourn the meeting, and Greg Lewis seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:47 am.

Calendar:

BOS Meeting: Tuesday, 23 August 2022 6:00 PM MHS Auditorium

**BAB Meeting: Tuesday, 13 September 2022, 9:00 AM hybrid on Zoom
& in-person at Mathews Memorial Library**