



MATHEWS BROADBAND ADVISORY BOARD

8 October 2024 at 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

In-person at Library and on ZOOM

MIINUTES

Attending: *Judy Rowe, *Greg Lewis, *Willie Love, *Dr. Marshall Ruffin, MD, *Rob Quartel, *Page Herbert, *Pearl Foster, *Rob Quartel, Judi Green, Jeff Beekhoo, Tyler Beekhoo, Tim Doss, David Walsh, Adam Beck
***Voting members - quorum = 5**

OPENING: Chair called the meeting to order 9:00 AM.

August and September 2024 Minutes: both approved as emailed

OLD BUSINESS

Verizon FTTH (Fiber To The Home)

Public Safety

Website: broadband4mathews.info Submissions go to Page or Greg

Considering a page for Breezeline, one for OBB, one for Verizon, one for Riverside MyCharts. Looking for a title.

NEW BUSINESS

Article from Wall Street Journal

Marshall Ruffin sent this out to our email list to have a discussion at this meeting of the issues noted. The Chair insisted that politics be kept out of the discussion and that we consider the information as to how it applies to Mathews in our quest for universal coverage.

Smart Poles

Jeff is changing out the cards of the poles that will lower the cost considerably. He will work with Ramona to get this done by the end of the month.

Digital Opportunity Grant

Public Meetings

Judy thanked Dr. Daniel and the School Board for getting their last meeting live online. She praised the BOS for getting their meetings working so well online.

Community Events

Judy reported that she had a request from the Gwynn's Island Civic League about having service for their Festival the last Saturday in June. The Fire Department requested service at Williams Wharf for the Boat Docking Contest for the same issue - using card readers. GI Festival has lost vendors because of this issue. A request also came from the Ruritan Club and the Little League for further coverage than what they have currently from the smart pole there. The solution for all three is the same. Jeff volunteered to set up the equipment at GICL for their Festival 6/29/24 and at Williams Wharf for the Boat Docking Contest 6/22/24. All three came back and wanted to know how they could make it permanent. Jeff explained the possible solution at the June GICL meeting and invited all to attend.

Politicians

Congressman Wittman's Assistant in charge of Broadband, Will Stork, talked with Judy about her concerns for the BEAD funding not moving forward in Virginia. Willie has attempted to reach Virginia Delegate Keith Hodges but has not heard from him. Dr. Holmes asked to leave Senator Warner to DHCD.

Capacity Grant

Jeff told us about the change in timing for the Capacity Grant from 12 to 9 months preparation to apply for the \$1.2 M. Digital opportunity grants will include providing devices and educating the public on the devices, as well as such platforms as telemedicine.

Smart Poles

Judy proposed recognizing those organizations who have allowed the BAB to place smart poles on their properties at a BOS meeting: West Mathews League, Ruritan Club and three churches: Antioch, St Matthew and Bethel. The meeting adjourned at 9:45AM.

Submitted by Judy Rowe with the help of AI.

