

Rappahannock Broadband Committee

Minutes of June 12, 2017 Meeting

John Lesinski called meeting to order at 7:30 pm at the Rappahannock County Library

In attendance were: John Lesinski, Todd Summers, Jane Whitfield, Casey Eitner, Ed Goshorn, Mike Mahoney, Alan Zuschlag and Bill Dant (via Skype). (2 members of the public and 1 reporter from the Rappahannock News were also in attendance).

Minutes of previous meeting were submitted for approval and accepted (with the inclusion of a query from last month's meeting regarding rental income from any towers vis-à-vis the State Tax Code and how those rental fees would be addressed).

The first item on the agenda was Public Awareness Campaign and adopting it as is drafted. There was no discussion and the Public Awareness Campaign was approved 'as is.'

There being no other old business, the meeting shifted to new business. The first item for discussion under new business was the Public Awareness Campaign. John Lesinski introduced Jane Whitefield who will steer this campaign for the Broadband Committee. Jane immediately outlined the plans to roll out the campaign and looked to the earlier Foothills Forum survey as template on how to proceed. Jane would draft a document of tasks involved but hoped to keep this simple. The committee reviewed Jane's proposal and discussed it and other options at considerable length.

After much back and forth it was agreed that we would conduct two "Town Hall" discussions to promote the public awareness campaign. One at the Amissville Fire Hall and one at the High School.

Additional discussion concerned other media outlets in the county to target. Jane surveyed committee members for membership and/or relationships with county-wide organizations to help in disseminating flyers and information about the upcoming survey. It was apparent that we had a wide coverage of nearly every community organization in the county, and that some could contact various churches and other smaller communities for even more coverage. Further discussion involved timing of materials distribution ahead of the actual survey.

Another item discussed was the June 22nd meeting of "Region 7." John Lesinski would attend this meeting and get a legislative update on broadband issues to present to the committee at its next meeting.

The floor was opened to public comment. The question was asked if any funds were forthcoming from Richmond to help with broadband expansion. The Committee explained that nothing in this regard had been investigated at this fact-finding stage.

Next meeting of the Broadband Committee will be July 10, 2017 at the Washington Fire Hall at 4 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.