

Broadband Commission Meeting

February 17, 2022

Attendees:

Megan Delgaudio
Mary Ellen Sheffield
Todd Mohn
Joyce Jones
Dion Reid
Alison Davis
Ben Schaffle
Ed Cummins
Brian Riley
Heather Tinelli
Andrew Costello
Scott Seaborn

Ben motioned to begin at 4:01. Dion Reid 2nd.

Megan – Press release – link to the Bay Times article

https://www.myeasternshoremd.com/qa/news/qa-enters-grant-pool-for-broadband-expansion/article_9268a68c-f23d-5801-a700-fabef1f60d13.html

Article was put in the Bay Times concerning the Grant applications that were submitted to the State. Review period was February/March last year – should be receiving something to review some time soon. State is supposed to advertise who is proposing to go where at some point.

Discuss steps to position us for additional funding. We have covered most of the big areas of the County. Need to get the word out that if you still need service in additional areas let us know. Maybe the schools would have an idea about where the need is. Heather will give Megan a contact with the school. – Lanette Power Water

Ideas to reach out: update our website, another press release and possibly something from QACTV, regional Facebook - Beth

Talkie - completed their area in Kingstown for 2021 funding. Sent to State for reimbursement.

ABB – From Crystal Duke:

- We are currently wrapping up the Construction Phase of the Rescoped Willow Branch Project Area.
 - 100% of the underground construction has been completed.
 - The aerial construction portion is 80% complete.
 - (All except the 301 Crossing is complete).

- Once the construction is complete, we will tie into the headend and start the end-to-end testing and certification.
- We are estimating to set up the "friendly accounts" for testing the services in the new project area in March.
- Then we will work on deploying direct sales and scheduling drops and installations.

Once I hear the certification phase is complete and the project area is released, I will let you know.

Think Big - Dee Anna Sobczak

We have completed construction on Route 300 and also have completed the customer drops. We have splicing left to do.

For Duhamel it's the same as Route 300.

For Highbridge we are waiting on the railroad crossing, which is always a long wait.

Hopefully splicing will be done soon on the first two and the customers will be lit. As soon as we start lighting, I will let you know

Choptank - Valerie Connelly

Choptank Fiber is actively marketing service to members in the four areas outlined in black in the picture below. This is about 140 locations in the county. Our grants from the state from FY21 fund service to about 800 locations. We are making very good progress on the engineering and backbone work between Ridgely and Barclay and expect to begin offering service to many more locations in that area soon. We expect to have service offered to all members in our QA grant areas by the end of this calendar year – well ahead of the 3-year timeframe set out in the Office of Statewide Broadband FY21 grant agreement. We are working to update the Choptank Fiber website to show the QA Co roads where service is available and where service is “in progress.”

Breezeline – Heather emailed Megan about complaints from the Business community that since the transition to Breezeline noticed degrading of service. Megan made Breezeline aware of the issues. They are looking into it. Rick Gordon suggested that we reach out to other providers first then may be able get grant money.

Member seats – Dion please right a formal letter to Shari to let her know that you want to continue to serve on the Committee.

Another grant came out on 2/9 due by March 15th. – Federal money. Don't have an area right now to put towards this. Talkie reached out about it today – where can they go?

Andrew Costello - Exit 39B - trenching and construction - Coop - Ben will reach out

Megan will put something together about how we can get the community engaged and Alison can work on distribution ideas.

Joyce motioned to adjourn at 4:22pm 2nd by Dion Reid