



Audio recordings of the Economic and Tourism Development Commission meetings can be found on the Recordings Tab.

February 8, 2023

Commission Members Present: Aaron Bramble, Charlie Athey, Dick Story, Paula Reeder, Tracey Williams, Sandy Scott, and Rob Thompson

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Wright, Economic Development Manager, Dawson Hunter, Housing and Transportation Coordinator, Shalyn Boulden, Tourism Manager, Economic and Tourism Development; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; and Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning

At 3:02 p.m. Mr. Bramble called the meeting to order. Mr. Story requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2023, meeting. On a motion by Mr. Athey and seconded by Mr. Story, the January 11, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Mackey shared that the Planning Commission walked through of the 47 Task Force recommendations and identified 32 recommendations that are satisfactory “as is.” The remaining 15 recommendations will be discussed further at the Planning Commission meeting in March.

The Technical Advisory Council reviewed the proposed projects submitted by Gillespie Precast LLC requesting a site plan review to expand the concrete and ceramics manufacturing use and contractor’s yard from 4.75 acres to 13.50 acres and to construct a 60-foot by 80-foot equipment storage building. A second project submitted by Gillespie Precast LLC requesting a site plan review to expand the finished-product concrete storage yard by 6.22 acres and to construct a 200-foot by 80-foot storage building, and to build a new entrance to MD 291 on property and a project submitted by Camp Fairlee requesting a site plan review to construct two new cottages, each approximately 1700 square feet in area, to house employees on the site, as well as a 12-foot-wide driveway.

Since August 19, 2003 (effective date of current Land Use Ordinance), subdivisions in the AZD require that a maximum of 10% of a parcel may be subdivided into new lots and 90% of the farm be left intact. The Task Force discussed the possible elimination of the rule as part of its deliberations. The Planning Commission will potentially be discussing this at its next meeting.

In September 2021, a proposal for changes to the Forest Conservation provisions of the Land Use Ordinance were submitted for consideration by a member of the public. The Task Force discussed this matter, and a large amount of support by members of the public was expressed at Task Force meetings including support by Washington College groups and ShoreRivers which submitted a petition with over 400 signatures. The Planning Commission will potentially be discussing this at its next meeting.

Letters submitted by the public to the Task Force are posted online at <https://www.kentcounty.com/compzone>. Correspondence is located under the Task Force tab. Letters that relate to the 10% rule include 8, 11, 15-25, 29-32, and 47. Letters that relate the Forest Conservation Act include 39-43, and 45-47. The Task Force Recommendations that are being reviewed by the Planning Commission may be found at https://www.kentcounty.com/images/pdf/planning/Revised_6_CRU_Task_Force_Recommendations_Proposed.pdf.

There are many sets of minutes posted online, where the 10% rule and the FCA are discussed. There was a request for the staff developed waiver process related to the 10% rule. For a more in-depth review of the Task Force discussions, you may wish to review the Task Force minutes. These are provided under the Meeting Summaries tab that is under the Task Force tab at <https://www.kentcounty.com/compzone>.

Scott Sturgill, President and CEO, People's Bank shared that 2022 was a good year for the bank. Mr. Sturgill shared County concerns, declining population, low labor participation rate, aging population, and youth out migration.

Ms. Wright shared sixteen applications have been received for the Upper Shore Micro Ag grant. The committee will meet to review applications. Kent County is a registered sponsor with Taste of the Eastern Shore and staff will be attending. Ms. Wright is working on developing the graphic for a truck wrap advertisement.

Ms. Boulden shared the reimbursement grant for FY2023 has been completed and submitted for approval. Ms. Wright, Ms. Jamie Williams, and Ms. Boulden are working on marketing materials and ad creation. Ms. Williams and Ms. Boulden traveled to Queen Anne's County to meet with Marci Ross, Maryland Office of Tourism Development and Queen Anne's County staff to view a presentation about the reimbursement grant. Ms. Boulden and Ms. Wright met with Chris Hopkinson who is hosting the Bay Paddle event at Haven Harbour South from July 22-23, 2023.

Mr. Hunter attended the New York Travel Show in a partnership with Upper Bay Best Bets (UBBB). Non-emergency Medical Transportation funding has been pulled by University of Maryland, Shore Regional Health.

Jamie Williams shared the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg was well attended and the UBBB partnership allowed Kent County to be at the DC Travel Show. Ms. Williams shared that Kent County Public Schools ranking has moved from 22 to 18, it's going in the right direction.

Mike Waal shared that in his 23 years there has been very little change, he recommended that the County reach out to chambers in states that are ranked worse than the State of Maryland and send information about Kent County to CEOs.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Scott, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director