



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

December 14, 2022

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

Commission Members Absent: Tracey Williams

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Jana Carter, Tourism Manager, Katie Wright, Economic Development Manager, Dawson Hunter, Housing and Transportation Coordinator, Shalyn Boulden, Administrative Specialist, Economic and Tourism Development; John Price, Commissioner; 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. Bramble requested a motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2022, meeting. On a motion by Mr. Story and seconded by Mr. Thompson, the November 9, 2022, minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Mackey shared The Board of Appeals approved a special exception to operate a septic maintenance and excavation business. A new pole building will be constructed to store equipment, while the administrative operations will continue in the home in Chesapeake Landing. The application for a site plan was reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee and will be scheduled for Planning Commission in January.

Mr. Mackey also shared that the Kent County High School Next Generation Scholars Tour brought thirty-six students and three staff members to the Commissioners' Hearing Room on November 17, 2022. Ms. Boulden arranged and coordinated the tour, and Human Resources, Planning, Housing, and Zoning, and Economic and Tourism Development participated in the tour. In a brief presentation, Mr. Mackey addressed students and discussed careers in County planning and answered questions. The County's focus on balancing both economic growth and agricultural preservation was a key highlight. On December 14, 2022, the Comprehensive Rezoning and Update Task Force will hold a Public Forum in the Commissioners' Hearing Room, to receive public input on the Task Force's recommendations on specific text changes and the proposed recommendations by the consultant for the Land Use Ordinance.

Ms. Carter shared the Faces of the Chesapeake spread in What's Up? Magazine featuring the Economic and Tourism Development staff and Commission members. Ms. Carter shared videos that appeared on WUSA9 highlighting dining in Kent County and A Dickens of a Christmas that are posted on the Tourism Development YouTube channel. Ms. Carter announced she accepted a position elsewhere and her last day with Kent County would be December 16, 2022.

Mr. Hunter shared Kent County submitted a letter of intent to the Department of Transportation Thriving Communities which will provide two years' worth of federal funding to Kent County if an application is accepted. The Maryland Upper Shore Transit Committee met to review 5310 grants which cover funding for public transit for seniors and residents with disabilities. Negotiations with the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center at Chestertown are underway to develop non-emergency medical transport for Kent County residents. On a motion by Mr. Story, seconded by Mr. Thompson and carried unanimously, a decision was made to create a transportation subcommittee with the size and members to be determined. Ms. Reeder suggested members be selected from different regions of the County, Mr. Story concurred.

Ms. Wright shared an Enterprise Zone package for M&J Ventures has been completed and submitted to the Town of Chestertown. The process has begun to designate a new Enterprise Zone. The 2023 Micro Ag grant opens on January 2, 2022. The grant has been advertised on social media and newsletters. A judging panel has been selected to determine grant awards. Ms. Wright has been sitting in on a few meetings with Ms. Carter to assist with the transition.

Ms. Jamie Williams shared reorganization within the Department is to be determined. Ms. Williams is completing a snapshot of Kent County Business and Economy for the Maryland Department of Commerce. Planning and Zoning is researching GIS software to assist with GIS and mapping needs. A holiday message was and will be broadcasted on WCTR. Ms. Williams thanked Ms. Carter for her service to Kent County and Economic and Tourism Development.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Athey, seconded by Ms. Scott, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:34 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, January 11, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director