



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

**August 10, 2022**

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

Commission Members Absent: Sandy Scott

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Wright, Economic Development Manager, Jana Carter, Tourism Manager, Dawson Hunter, Housing and Community Coordinator, Economic and Tourism Development; Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; and Shalyn Boulden, Administrative Specialist

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Bramble called the meeting to order. Mr. Bramble requested a motion to approve the minutes from July 13, 2022, meeting. On a motion by Ms. Reeder and seconded by Mr. Thompson, July 13, 2022, minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Mackey shared that Gillespie Precast submitted an application for review by the Technical Advisory Committee. The proposal would more than double the storage area of the yards located at the site of the former Campbell's Soup factory on Morgnec Road. A proposed new storage building is also included. The County strongly supports the expansion of existing local businesses.

On Wednesday, July 27, 2022 the CRU Task Force met and reviewed proposed sign code format changes and a proposed nonconformities chapter. The Task Force endorsed the new sign code format while keeping the amount of signage allowed by current regulations. One exception is the introduction of new standards to allow limited Electronic Message Centers for gasoline station uses and quasi-public/institutional uses. The Task Force also accepted the proposed nonconformities package. The proposed nonconformities chapter is focused on re-organization, standardization of language, and compliance with SCOTUS decisions. The Task Force also reviewed the zoning districts combination items, raising no objection to the combination of the three sets of districts that were proposed. The Task Force reviewed the last of the specific text changes, which included a discussion of enclaves in AZD and the suggestion for a new noise ordinance. The Task Force suggested dropping the enclave provisions and did not seek to add new noise provisions.

The Planning Commission reviewed the application by Kenah One Health Care Services for a special exception for a facility to serve adults with mental health and substance use disorders who need rehabilitative services over a 30- to 90-day period at 25000 Lambs Meadow Road. The Planning Commission also reviewed five residentially related items. The Board of Appeals met and reviewed two residentially related applications, tabling one item for more information.

John Carroll, Mayor of the Town of Galena, shared he is the new President of the Maryland Municipal League. The Town of Galena Comprehensive Plan is almost complete and will allow more growth moving forward. General feedback from the community is residents are seeking more controlled growth of the town. Nine new businesses have opened in Galena since January 2022 and the North Branch of the Kent County Library has moved to a larger building in Dogwood Plaza. The next round of AAPRA funding will be used for street repair and green infrastructure. The movie “The Road to Galena” is now streaming and in select theaters. The Town of Galena is working with the Town of Millington for a shuttle service to assist residents who are unable to drive.

Jamie Williams welcomed Dawson Hunter, Housing and Community Coordinator, to Economic and Tourism Development. The Kent County Commissioners voted and agreed on three projects to move forward for the Rural Maryland Economic Development Fund, Worton Sewer project, 213 entrance to the Chestertown Business Campus and the Millington wastewater expansion. The expected total for the projects will exceed the money Kent County is receiving. The Commissioners agreed to make up the cost difference with County funding. The Upper Shore Regional Council will keep \$1.3 million of the funds to support regional projects. Funding requests are being submitted for community colleges and workforce investment boards. hotDesks is now being managed by ETD staff pending approval from the Kent County Commissioners. Currently hotDesks has twelve members. A grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation was received to repair erosion along the railroad tracks in Worton.

Ms. Carter provided a tourism update. Kent County is receiving \$191,000 to market the County from the State of Maryland Tourism Fund in FY2023. The focus will be on television marketing as well as more digital ads with expanding markets into New York. Ms. Carter will be meeting with Cecil and Harford County to promote the Upper Bay region and marketing common assets through Upper Bay Best Bets. Co-op advertising for tourism partners will be explored again in FY2023. In partnership with other counties along the Chesapeake Bay, a destination assessment will be completed.

Ms. Wright shared the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Summer Conference will be held in Ocean City, MD August 17-19, 2022. ETD staff is collecting donations from local businesses for a raffle with the intention to draw a winner to visit Kent County. The County website updates are moving forward. A finance workshop is being planned in collaboration with Sarah King, Director Kent County Chamber of Commerce and Nancy Lajoice, Maryland Department of Commerce. An ad containing information regarding short term rental tax will run in the Tidewater Trader for three weeks. Ms. Wright and Ms. Jamie Williams met with KRM and Queen Anne’s County Economic Development to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.

On a motion made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Reeder and carried unanimously, a reappointment recommendation of Ms. Tracey Williams was approved.

Choptank Community Health has opened with a doctor and two nurse practitioners in Chestertown with a presence at Rock Hall Elementary School for dental care and has expressed an interest in a having a presence in Millington for residents.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Ms. Tracey Williams, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m. The Commission

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agreed to meet again on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director