



**Audio recordings of the Economic Development Commission meetings can be found at <https://www.kentcounty.com/economic-development/board-meetings> click on the ‘Audio Recordings Tab’.**

**July 1, 2020**

Commission Members Present: Jim Luff, Tracey Williams, Kate Gray, Rob Thompson, Dick Story

Commission Members Absent: Aaron Bramble and Cindy Genter

Also in Attendance: Scott Boone, Director, Information Technology; Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; Bob Jacob, County Commissioner; Jamie Williams, Director, Economic Development; and Emily McCoy, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development

At 3:01 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2020 meeting. On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the June 3, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Boone gave an update on the fiber deployment project. The County received two matching grants from the Department of Housing and Community Development. An additional seven applications were submitted with the County’s partner Internet Service Provider (ISP) and all seven were approved. Grants awarded will provide access to the following areas Eastern Neck/Huntingfield, Pentridge, Langford Road, Jim Davis Galena, Van Sant Corner, Shadding Reach/Chesterville Forest, and Fairlee Landing. Construction is completed on a few projects and the remainder are expected to be completed this fall. Allowing students and teleworkers access to fiber in the event of further closings and shutdowns. These grant awards will allow more than \$900,000 of new fiber connectivity with a County commitment of \$200,000.

Mr. Mackey provided an overview of the recent public meetings and upcoming initiatives. Mr. Mackey shared:

- CHR 3-2020 was adopted by the County Commissioners on June 2, with a reformatted version adopted for clarification on June 16. The Bill includes the specific use Data Processing Center as a permitted use by right in the Village, Commercial, Employment Center and Industrial Zoning Districts.
- **Technical Advisory Committee**
  - On Thursday, June 11, TAC virtually reviewed two applications. The first was a proposed special exception for a Country Inn, submitted by Sam and Kathie Wright for property at 31826 Glen Road. The second was a proposed major site plan (concept) for the Chestertown Substation, submitted by Delmarva Power and Light Company for property at 509 Morgnec Road.

- On Thursday, June 25, the TAC virtually reviewed a proposed zoning text amendment related to campgrounds, as required by the Critical Area Commission, including amendments. TAC also reviewed was a major subdivision (final review) for Fifth Investments, LLC for property located on the eastern side of Tolchester Road in “AZD,” formerly known as Delta Heights.
- **Comprehensive Rezoning and Update 2020-21;** the new webpage for the CRU - <https://www.kentcounty.com/planning/comprehensive-rezoning>

Jamie Williams shared:

- The Maryland Department of Transportation letter of support, from the Commission, for the Worton railroad project was submitted. The Kent County Commissioners provided a letter of support and a \$10,000 commitment for the project. The Department of Commerce also made a commitment of \$100,000.
- A summary of the economic development grants:
  - COVID Modification – 30 applications received to date.
  - Kent CARES for Growth Grant - 42 applications received to date.
  - Marketing Grant partnership with the Upper Shore Regional Council – 24 applications received to date. The next webinar will be available to all businesses, is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>
- Strategic Plan update – getting back into the plan; starting with current economic data; timeline to be updated
- Movie Theatre will not be reopening, the County and the Town are working on exploring options to utilize the property in a manner that will continue to service the Revolving Loan Fund commitment.

A datacenter attraction subcommittee meeting was held. It was suggested that a single page flyer be created. The current flyer needs to be updated. The subcommittee discussed how to identify data center operators and how to contact them directly and personally. Properties suitable for data center attraction must be identified and marketed. The recommendation was made to explore the possibility of an overlay zone, a professional and technical services zone was suggested.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:32 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, August 5, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners’ Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD  
Director