

Business Meeting Minutes for January 22, 2020

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting executive session was called to order by Chairman Jesse Parks at 8:59 a.m. at the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Kathy Deoudes, Vice Chairman
Helen Bennett, Secretary
Royce Herman, Treasurer
Rob Marsh
Jeremy Reynolds
Mike Rosendale
Steve Donovan
Brian DeMoss
John Anderes
Hazen Arnold
Lee Bridgmon
Heather Bacher

Not Present:

Ed Beres
Jon Cook

Staff Present:

Heather Tinelli, Economic & Tourism Development Director
Danielle Dutra, Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Brennan Tarleton, County Planner, Queen Anne's County Planning and Zoning
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin
Thomas Rider, Business Service Supervisor, Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation
Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager, Town of Centreville
Martha Herman, Resident, Queen Anne's County
Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin, Historian, Queen Anne's County
Jack Schammel, Mentor, TEDCO
Patrick Perry, Board Member, QAC Economic Development Incentive Fund Commission

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Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris

Marci Leach, Director of Program Development, Chesapeake College

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes :

On a motion made by Mrs. Bennett, and seconded by Mrs. Deoudes, January meeting agenda and minutes from the November meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of the members present.

III. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Herman reported that the balance of the account managed by Chesapeake Charities is currently \$3,949.82. There were two disbursements, \$650.00 to Queenstown Harbor Golf for the December holiday breakfast, and \$39.83 for the new board member name tags.

IV. Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Chris Corchiarino updated the EDC. At the last Commissioners meeting there was a hearing on the ordinance that would allow the K-Mart property to expand its footprint. A vote on this ordinance will take place at the next Commissioners meeting scheduled for January 28th. At the January 28th meeting there will also be a hearing on the potential changes to the current liquor license requirements in Queen Anne's County. Commissioner Corchiarino and Commissioner Dumenil recently filmed a new episode of Ask a Commissioner at Matapeake Middle School. The Comprehensive Plan survey can be found online at qacplan2020.com.

V. Department Report: Economic Development Director, Heather Tinelli, reviewed the department report with the Economic Development Commission. Visitor center counts have increased from 2018 to 2019. However, the number of visits at parks around Queen Anne's County has decreased from 2018 to 2019. In conjunction with the Queenstown Premium Outlets we hosted the Mistletoe Market in one of the vacant retail spaces this holiday season. We hosted 16 local artisans, merchants and crafters utilizing this market to sell their products. Feedback from the vendors indicated that the number of shoppers was low, but vendors unanimously agreed that the market should occur in 2020. The department in partnership with Maryland Department of Commerce, KNDF, the QAC Chamber of Commerce, and Ryan Snow from Governor Larry Hogan's office met to discuss recent and future Bay Bridge traffic effects on local businesses. There is a follow up meeting scheduled for January 30th. The department also hosted three seminars/trainings at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center, Procurement 101, a USWIB Listening Session for the hospitality industry, and a LinkedIn Seminar. Current business attraction includes Envista Farms, We Shore Drive, the K-Mart Property and a Cold Storage Facility within the Opportunity Zone. Special projects the department is working on include a Balloon Festival to be held in 2021, and QAC State of the Economy 2020. There will be a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn focusing on Cyber Security at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center on January 28th. Upcoming business anniversaries include E&B Automotive celebrating 25 years, and Miltec UV celebrating 30 years in business.

VI. Old Business:

A. Update on Liquor License Proposed Changes: The Economic Development Commission has received the information regarding the proposed liquor license changes to Article 27-1403, and the current ownership requirement of 15% in order to apply for a liquor license. The EDC board reviewed the liquor license codes and has proposed some amendments. On a motion made by Mr. Herman, and seconded by Mr. Donovan the EDC voted 11 to 1 (Rob Marsh opposed) to recommend that the County Commissioners consider the removal of the 15% ownership requirement currently in Article 27-1403. The EDC states that the removal of

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residency and ownership requirements will allow for further economic opportunity within Queen Anne's County.

VII. New Business:

- A. Presentation: Maryland Museum of Women's History:** Mary Margaret Revell Goodwin, Queen Anne's County Historian, and president of the Mary Edwardine Bourke Foundation gave a presentation to the EDC on the restoration and construction efforts taking place at Bloomfield Manor the future home of the Maryland Museum of Women's History located at White Marsh Park in Centreville
- B. Comp Plan Update-Visioning Session March 25th during EDC Meeting:** Smith Planning and Design, the outside consulting company working with Queen Anne's County on the Comp Plan will be attending the Economic Development Commission meeting on March 25th to gather input from the board.
- C. Economic and Tourism Development Budget FY21:** Preliminary FY 21 budget is due today, January 22nd. The department would like to purchase a CRM Software program to use for tracking business visits, and business statistics. This software will be a proposed increase in the department budget.
- D. Subcommittee Review:** Chairman, Jesse Parks, discussed the need to bring back EDC Subcommittees. Proposed committees include Workforce Development, Small Business, Permitting, and Business Ambassadors.

VIII. Liaison Reports:

- A. Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday updated the board on behalf of the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce. The Kick-Off breakfast was held last week; Susan Vienna of Fishergate is the new chair for 2020. New Directories are out. On January 28th there will be a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center. Bay Tech will be presenting on Cyber Security. On February 20th there will be a chamber event at Crow Vineyards located at the Queenstown Premium Outlets.
- B. Business Queen Anne's:** Steve Donovan updated the board on behalf of Business Queen Anne's. Letter to Commissioners regarding amendments to the current liquor laws in Queen Anne's County. BQA is also working on the Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley updated the board on behalf of Kent Narrows Development Foundation. The 120 room Hyatt Place has broken ground; it is scheduled to open spring 2021. KNDF has added 3 new board members, Jeff Smith, Judy Wink, and Butch Pearson. A survey of businesses in the Kent Narrows was done to validate the issues businesses had on Thanksgiving weekend due to traffic. Results will be presented at the KNDF meeting next week.
- D. Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation:** Tom Rider updated the board on behalf of the Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation. The State of Maryland is giving more money for apprenticeships. The Maryland Business Works program gives money for employee training after an employee has been with a company for 6 months.

- IX. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mrs. Bennett, and seconded by Mr. Donovan, the Board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

