

Business Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2021

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Deoudes at 9:00 a.m. at The Inn at the Chesapeake Bay Beach Club, 180 Pier One Road, Stevensville, MD 21666. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions being reduced, the meeting was held in-person or via Zoom. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Kathy Deoudes, Chairman
Heather Bacher, Vice Chairman
Lee Bridgmon, Secretary
Ed Beres, Treasurer
Jesse Parks
Hazen Arnold
Jim Reilly
Larissa Costello
John Anderes (via Zoom)
Jon Cook (via Zoom)
Shawna Truitt (Via Zoom)
Jeremy Reynolds (Via Zoom)

Not Present:

Rob Marsh
Brian DeMoss
Mike Rosendale

Staff Present:

Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic & Tourism Development
Katie Clendaniel, Marketing & Destination Develop. Specialist, Economic & Tourism Development (via Zoom)
Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator, Economic & Tourism Development (via Zoom)

Others present:

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County (via Zoom)
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager, Town of Centreville
Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs, Chesapeake College
Walt Petrie, Chairman, Petrie Ross Ventures
Tim McGrath, Owner, McGrath Development
Adam Tolley, CTE Supervisor, Queen Anne's County Public School (via Zoom)
Jody Schulz, Owner, Fisherman's Village/Kent Narrows Boatel (via Zoom)
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce (via Zoom)

Tom Rider, Business Service Supervisor, Dept. of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (via Zoom)
Stephanie Jones, Long Range Senior Planner, Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning (via Zoom)

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

On a motion made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Bacher the April meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bacher and seconded by Mr. Parks, the minutes from the March meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

III. Treasurers Report: Mr. Beres reported that the account managed by Chesapeake Charities has a current balance of \$. There has been no recent activity.

IV. Commissioners Report: Queen Anne's County Commissioners, Jack Wilson updated the board on behalf of the County Commissioners. At the April 27, 2021 County Commissioners meeting the 2022 county budget was introduced. Budget hearings will take place over the next couple of weeks. The State of Maryland has introduced a plan to contribute \$300 million towards broadband deployment throughout the state, details have not yet been released.

V. Department of Economic and Tourism Update: Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC. The rebranding process with Choptank Communications continues to move forward. First draft of the project is expected from Choptank Communications next week. Queen Anne's County hosted the Bay Bridge Boat show April 15th-April 18th at the Bay Bridge Marina. The show was a great success with 8,000 tickets sold. The Queen Anne's County/Kent County Career Technology Liaison candidate has been chosen and has accepted the position. This candidate will start full-time June 1st. The Department of Economic & Tourism Development currently has two available positions, Administrative Assistant I and Economic Development Coordinator. Applications have closed and interviews will take place over the next few weeks. Applications for the third round of Restaurant funding (\$184,427.57) and the second round of Hotel/Lodging (\$83,830.71) funding closed last week. Applications will be reviewed by the grant committee this coming Friday. No applications were received for the Online Sales & Teleworking Support Grant. This program will be re-opened for applications. The U.S. Small Business Administration Restaurant Revitalization Fund opens on May 3, 2021. Coming soon, the county will be administering the Non-Profit Assistance Grant Fund (166,668). This funding is being awarded by DHCD to support non-profits directly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Two ribbon cuttings have recently occurred in Queen Anne's County, Farm Charm Home Décor & Gifts located at the Queenstown Premium Outlets and MarineMax located in Grasonville at Safe Harbor Narrows Point Marina. The urgent care facility is still moving forward with a new facility in Chester.

VI. Presentation of Citizen Sponsored Text Amendments (TACO's)

a. **Stephanie Jones-Queen Anne's County Planning and Zoning:** Ms. Jones reviewed the citizen sponsored text amendments submitted during the first 10 days of February. This year the county received three submissions. At the April 27th Commissioners meeting County Ordinance 21-02: Major and Minor Multifamily Dwelling and Non-Residential Height Requirements in the Urban (UC) Zoning District in Queen Anne's County, Maryland, and County Ordinance 21-03: Self Storage Uses in the Town Center (TC) Zoning District in Queen Anne's County, Maryland were introduced to the public. Public hearings

will be scheduled in the near future for both text amendments. The third text amendment addresses utility scale solar arrays. This amendment is pending applicant updates before it is presented to the County Commissioners.

- b. **Walt Petrie-Bay Bridge Marina Re-Development Project:** Mr. Petrie presented to the Economic Development Commission his submitted citizen sponsored text amendment County Ordinance 21-02: Major and Minor Multifamily Dwelling and Non-Residential Height Requirements in the Urban (UC) Zoning District on behalf of his plans for the Bay Bridge Marina Re-Development Project. The project would include adding condominiums or apartments directly on the water's edge, adding security gates to the marina, and rebranding/renovating Hemingway's Restaurant at Bay Bridge Marina.

On a motion made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mr. Arnold, the board unanimously approved to send letters in support of County Ordinance 21-02 and County Ordinance 21-03 to the County Commissioners.

VII. Old Business:

- A. **Comprehensive Plan Update:** Members of the Economic Development Commission attended the Technical Committee Economic Development Zoom meeting on April 27th from 1:30pm-3:30pm. This chapter is still in draft form, so there is still time to provide feedback.
- B. **Subcommittee Update (this item was not on the original agenda)**
 - a. **Permitting:** Mr. Parks provided an update on behalf of the committee. The committee plans to set up a meeting with Sharon Dobson from the Planning Commission.
 - b. **Workforce Development:** Kathy Deoudes, Linda Friday and Adam Tolley provided an update on behalf of the Workforce Development sub-committee. They are currently working with Chesapeake College to develop a Culinary Arts Program that will accommodate up to 10 students. Please help spread the word to local restaurants who would be willing to take on an apprentice and to students who may be interested in the program. Mrs. Friday is currently working on scholarship opportunities for the first 10 students to attend.
 - c. **Broadband:** Mr. Reynolds provided an update on behalf of the Broadband sub-committee. They are currently working with ISP providers that work with the broadband cooperative in both the commercial and residential sectors to form a committee. Mr. Reynolds is hoping to schedule their first meeting in the next couple of weeks.

VIII. New Business: NO NEW BUSINESS WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE APRIL 28, 2021 EDC MEETING

IX. Liaison Reports

- A. **Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday, President provided an update on behalf of the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber hosted a "Cash Mob" where 10-12 people supported a local business by spending a certain amount of money. This event will be happening again on May 5th. The Chamber's annual golf tournament will be held on May 7th at Queenstown Harbor Golf, this event is sold out. A community shred day was held at Anne Arundel Medical Center on Kent Island, this was a free event open to the public. The virtual legislative wrap up will be held on May 4th.
- B. **Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Executive Director provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. There will be a COVID-19 vaccine clinic held at the Old Kent Narrows Outlets from Tuesday, April 27th to Saturday, May 1st hosted by the Queen Anne's

County Department of Health. MarineMax located in Grasonville at Safe Harbor Narrows Point Marina recently held their grand opening. Active construction projects occurring in the Kent Narrows include phase two of the Kent Narrows Marine Boatel, and Hyatt Place. The Foundation is working on a pedestrian way finding project in partnership with Queen Anne's County. Bids will be awarded this week. The Chesapeake Motoring Festival will be held at the Kent Island Yacht Club on June 5th and 6th.

- C. Town of Centreville:** Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager provided an update on behalf of the Town of Centreville. Thanks to Mrs. Clendaniel the Delmarva Life Small Town Series on Centreville aired on April 22, 2021. The Heritage Trail brochure is currently being updated in preparation for the Smithsonian Exhibit "Voices in Votes" which will be located at the Kennard School in Centreville from June 14th to July 24th. Carol D'Agostino has worked very hard to deliver \$130K in funding to Centreville business through the Main Street Grants. Bull & Goat Brewery recently hosted a ribbon cutting for Smoke Showing Cigar Company, Maryland's finest mobile premium cigar shop.
 - D. Queen Anne's County Public Schools:** Adam Tolley, CTE Supervisor provided an updated-on behalf of Queen Anne's County Public Schools. In partnership with Chesapeake College, they have been working to create a Culinary Arts Program for Queen Anne's County students. The program comes with a nationally recognized ServeSafe Certification. Mr. Tolley applied for and received a marketing grant in the amount of \$15K to use for the Maryland Youth Apprenticeship Program.
 - E. Maryland Department of Commerce:** Nancy LaJoice, Senior Business Development Representative provided an update on behalf of the Maryland Department of Commerce. Progress is being made on the MD Department of Commerce Relief Act Grants; applications are currently being reviewed. Funding is still available for businesses that are doing international business or plan on doing an international trade show next year.
 - F. Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing & Regulation:** Tom Rider, Business Service Supervisor updated the board on behalf of DLLR. Due to the COVID pandemic, the career centers remain closed. 17 companies from the Uppers Shore attended a job fair located in Delaware, including PRS Guitars. The State of Maryland does not require those who are currently receiving unemployment to actively apply for jobs.
 - G. Chesapeake College:** Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs provided an update on behalf of Chesapeake College. The College continues its build out for workforce programs including instructional positions, program re-development/additions and infrastructure changes. The College received a grant from the State of Maryland for infrastructure improvements, they plan to use this funding to update their CDL yard. They also received a grant for a CDL simulator. Chesapeake College will not require their students be vaccinated before returning to campus this fall.
- X. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Parks, and seconded by Mrs. Bridgmon, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:47am.