



**Queen
Anne's
County**

MARYLAND

Business Meeting Minutes for October 27, 2021

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jesse Parks at 9:00 a.m. at The Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center, 425 Piney Narrows Rd., Chester, MD. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions being lifted, the meeting was held in-person, with the option to participate via Zoom. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Lee Bridgman, Secretary
Hazen Arnold
Larissa Costello
John Anderes (via Zoom)
Jeremy Reynolds (via Zoom)
Heather Bacher
Jim Reilly
Rob Marsh
Jon Cook (via Zoom)
Brian DeMoss

Not Present:
Ed Beres, Treasurer
Shawna Truitt

Staff Present:
Heather Tinelli, Director,
Connie Dean, Career Technology
Rebecca Lepter, Economic Development Coordinator
Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator (via Zoom)
Katie Clendaniel, Marketing & Destination Development
Specialist

Economic Development Commission:

Jesse Parks, Chair
John R. Anderes III
Hazen S. Arnold IV
Heather L. Bacher
Edward Beres
Lee A. Schnappinger Bridgman
Jonathan Y. Cook
Larissa Costello
Brian R. DeMoss
Rob Marsh
Jim Reilly
Jeremy Reynolds
Shawna Truitt

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
Stephen Wilson, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
Christopher M. Corchiaro, District 4

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

Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris (via Zoom)

Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (via Zoom)

Lanette Power-Waters, Communication Specialist, QAC Board of Education

Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager, Town of Centreville

Steve Johnson, Planner, QAC Planning & Zoning

Drew Bealby, Planner, QAC Planning & Zoning

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

On a motion made by Mr. Marsh and seconded by Mr. Reilly, the October meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

On a motion made by Ms. Costello and seconded by Ms. Bridgman, the September meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

III. Treasurers Report: Mr. Beres was not present but prior to the meeting reported that the account managed by Chesapeake Charities has a current balance of \$3,798.32.

IV. Commissioners Report: Queen Anne's County Commissioner Jack Wilson updated the board on behalf of the County Commissioners: The FY23 budget process will begin next week and will be their focus for the next few months. The Commissioners do not anticipate any tax increase. Broadband projects are continuing around Queen Anne's County, most notably in north County. At the previous evening's Commissioners meeting, representatives from MACO (MD Assoc. of Counties) as well as the County Lobbyist provided important details regarding current legislative updates. Commissioner Wilson encouraged members to view the recorded meeting. He stated his concern regarding the proposed redistricting of northern QAC into a new delegate district.

V. Department of Economic and Tourism Update: Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC:

- The department launched their new branding platform at the Economic Outlook event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce on September 23rd, 2021 at Prospect Bay Country Club.
- QACETD is celebrating Economic Development Week with planned visits to local businesses. Their strategic focus is to continue visits to educate local businesses and the community about our staff, what we do and how we can offer support.

- The tourism team has been working with Corrigan Sports in the planning of the upcoming Bay Bridge Run and anticipate over 12,00 runners to attend.
- Bulkhead construction at the Chesapeake Heritage Visitors Center has begun and will correct the issue with tidal surge that is damaging the waterfront.
- Staff have been supporting the Stevensville Art & Entertainment District Board, which falls under QACETD's purview, in their application for a Strategic Planning Grant. If approved, funding will be used to hire a consultant that can facilitate the Board's reorganization and, help them establish goals and plan for the future.
- Mrs. Tinelli attended the Baltimore Metro Council Meeting that was held in Philadelphia this year.
- The department received approval from the County Commissioners to apply for a CDBG grant to conduct a feasibility study on the adaptive reuse of the former Sudlersville Middle School building. If approved, grant funds would cover the cost a consultant to conduct the feasibility study, and give community partners the information needed to determine how the building could best serve the region. Ms. Tinelli indicated that she was hopeful that the knowledge gained from this process could be utilized for other properties within the county.
- Mrs. Tinelli, Ms. Dean, and Ms. Clendaniel recently met with the new QAC Superintendent of Schools to discuss her support for the Internship and Apprenticeship programs that are being implemented in our local high schools.

V. Queen Anne's County Tourism Update - Katie Clendaniel, Marketing & Destination Development Specialist, provided an update:

- Ms. Clendaniel is currently Implementing the new branding platform all county departments to include websites, social media, letterhead, email signatures, signage, and marketing.
- The FY22 Marketing Plan is in place and the focus is to put more resources toward paid digital promotion to drive traffic to the website.
- Ms. Clendaniel is implementing geo-tracking campaigns to define website users
- County Commissioners approved QAC Economic & Tourism Development's application for a Building Back Better grant that would cover costs for a feasibility study regarding a potential passenger ferry. The Ferry Project would be a collaborative effort between QAC and Anne Arundel Counties with the potential to bring other counties/regions into the project.

VI. Liaison Reports

- A. Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday, President provided an update of behalf of the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce.
- a. The COC completed their month-long campaign for QAC Goes Purple and attended the opening ceremony for the section of the Cross Island Trail now dedicated to the fight against drug addiction and support for QAC Goes Purple.

- b. Recently toured the Trades Program at Chesapeake College and is very active in the Workforce Development Plan.
 - c. Currently creating the new Chamber Directory which will go to print in December.
 - d. The Chamber is planning a Celebration of Business event on 12/2 at Prospect Bay Country Club. The event will highlight businesses in QAC that are celebrating milestones, and will present an award for Business Leader of the Year, a Legacy Award as well as the Queen Anne Award.
- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Executive Director provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation:
- a. The Foundation continues to work on the final stages of the Kent Narrows Community Plan.
 - b. The Foundation is working on a pedestrian way finding project in partnership with Queen Anne's County.
 - c. Queen Anne's County continues working on upgrades to the Wells Cove parking and public landing, and upgrades to the bulkhead located in front of the visitor center have begun.
 - d. Construction on the Boatel and Hyatt Place Hotel continues.
 - e. Boatel is in phase 2. The restaurant, which will be named Dock House, is now under construction. The Boatel is actively looking for retailers to fill available spaces.
 - f. The condos at Wells Cove are almost complete.
 - g. The lease for Annie's and Red Eye's will not be renewed.
 - h. The Waterman's Way Trail brochure has been updated.
 - i. Plans are in the works for the 2nd annual QAC Watermen's Association Crab Basket Tree.
- C. Career Technology Liaison Update:** Connie Dean provided an update to the EDC on the progress that has been made as she develops the Career Technology program that will link schools and local businesses:
- a. Ms. Dean has met with the new Superintendent of QACPS to discuss the implementation of the Apprenticeship and Internship programs into the schools.
 - b. Attends regular meetings with the Upper Shore Regional Council regarding her status of progress.
 - c. Continues to work closely with the Career Technology Teachers to better understand their needs and connecting internships to the Capstone requirements.
 - d. Creating info sheets, brochure and rack cards that outline internship and apprenticeship programs as well as other events that promote career development and workforce training.
- D. Chesapeake College:** Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs at Chesapeake College, was unable to attend the meeting but did provide detailed flyer with information about updates to programs and current projects.
- E. QAC Planning and Zoning-**Steve Johnson and Drew Bealby, Planners with QAC Planning and Zoning, attended the meeting for the first time to introduce themselves as new Liaisons to the EDC Board. They also shared a packet of project updates.

- F. QAC Board of Education-** Lanette Power-Waters, Communication Specialist with QAC BOE, attended the meeting as a new Liaison and shared that the QAC BOE is in the process of rebranding and will be implementing some aspects of the counties rebranding strategies and design.
- G. Office of U.S. Senator Ben Cardin:** Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative shared that Sen. Cardin's office is currently working on Congressionally Directed Funding Requests for counties as well as nonprofits.
- H. Office of Congressman Andy Harris:** Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, shared that Congressman Harris was named Agriculture Subcommittee Chair for the Appropriations Committee
- I. Town of Centreville:** Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager, provided an update to the EDC Board.
 - a. The town has a new Town Manager and 2 new Council Members
 - b. YMCA project is progressing nicely
 - c. They had a great turn out for their Centreville Day event

VII. Old Business:

- A. Board Vacancies & Terms:** There are currently 4 vacancies on the EDC Board. Mr. Parks, EDC Board Chair, has asked the board to actively recruit potential members that would be a good fit for the available positions. Mr. Parks suggested some local small business owners, and someone associated with the medical field as potential candidates.
- B. Comprehensive Plan Update:** Mr. Parks encouraged all members to take an in-depth look at the proposed plan and make note on anything that they feel should be addressed. Public comment session is open until December 13th, 2021.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Economic Development Overview:**

Ms. Tinelli shared a condensed version of her presentation from the ED Overview event on September 23, 2021. She offered statistics and details that compared our past, present, and future. The presentation also showed the ways in which the new branding logo and tagline were versatile and can be easily utilized by other county departments, stakeholders, and businesses.
- B. Previous Outlet Property in Kent Narrows-** Rob Marsh, EDC Member, began a discussion regarding the Old Outlet property located at the intersection of Piney Narrows Rd and the base of the Kent Narrows Bridge. Mr. Marsh pointed out that the property has been in poor condition for decades and continues to be an eye sore that effects the property value of the businesses in Kent Narrows. Mr. Marsh suggested that there be a committee formed between the EDC Board and KNDF Board to request support from the QAC Commissioners to come up with a solution to this ongoing issue. The majority

of EDC Members agreed that this project needs to be made a priority and has remained in this state without attention for an unacceptable amount of time.

- IX. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Marsh, and seconded by Mrs. Bridgman, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:43am.