

Economic Development Commission

The County Commissioners of Kent County

400 High Street, 3rd Floor

Chestertown, MD 21620

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’.

January 8, 2020

Commission Members Present: Jim Luff, Cindy Genter, Rob Thompson, Tracey Williams, Aaron Bramble, Dick Story, and Brendan Jones

Commission Members Absent: Kate Gray

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

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order.

Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting. On motion by Mr. Bramble and seconded by Ms. Genter, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the December 4, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve a Letter of Support for the Millington Senior Village from the Economic Development Commission. On motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Story, the Commission unanimously approved the letter of support.

Mr. Mackey shared the following updates:

- The Planning Commission voted favorably for all items related to the Bayshore Campground package including the zoning text amendment, Growth Allocation Policy amendment, and the Growth Allocation application. Per counsel’s advice, the Commission made favorable comments on the site plan; a formal vote was not needed.
- The Planning Commission recommended favorably for setback variances for a waste management structure to in the Agricultural Zoning District. The Commission also approved a site plan for a building addition in the Industrial zoning district.
- A preliminary draft schedule for a proposed Comprehensive Rezoning and Update (CRU) 2020-2021 process was submitted for review and consideration. The upcoming CRU will likely be the department’s focus for the next two calendar years. A process that is customized to the needs and context of Kent County is being proposed, based on prior County processes, Maryland law, and relevant case law.
- The town of Millington has completed the annexation of 126 acres, the Freeman Evans property.
- County legislation is being introduced to allow datacenters as an acceptable use in all the county zoning districts. The proposed ordinance has been sent forward to the Planning Commission and Agricultural Preservation Commission for review.

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Jack Schammel, RBII Mentor, TEDCO presented “How Healthy is Your Ecosystem?”. The presentation focused on the components necessary to have a strong/vibrant start-up business ecosystem. Mr. Schammel shared how TEDCO aids in supporting the ecosystem for business development.

Samantha Branham, Manager, Chestertown Marina, shared information about the Marina’s first year of operation, including statistics and demographics on usage. Ms. Branham stated her main goal was to be better connected with businesses throughout the County. Focus will be placed on social media outreach and advertising in 2020.

Jamie Williams shared the Labor Market and Target Industry Analysis reports produced by EMSI and commented that feedback was requested by Monday December 9, 2020 at 4pm. Ms. Williams discussed the update for the Economic Development Strategic Plan and reviewed the items necessary to complete the update including the overall process, timeline, and public input. Commission members were asked to share any plans they find that are formatted well and can be used as a model. Ms. Williams will share the strategic planning guidance provided by the International Economic Development Council and contact possible facilitators for the public work sessions.

Mr. Luff tabled the election of Chair and Vice Chair for the CY2020 until the February meeting.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Mr. Bramble and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 3:00 pm. Meeting location pending approval.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director