

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’.

November 6, 2019

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

Commission Members Absent: Aaron Bramble

Also in Attendance: Bob Jacobs, County Commissioner; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; William Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning

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

Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 9, 2019 meeting. On motion by Mr. Story and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the October 9, 2019 meeting.

Jeff Trice Consulting shared insights on workforce and emerging markets, sharing information about agriculture, industrial hemp, and medical cannabis.

Jim Luff introduced the draft Sprinkler Tax Credit legislation. Tracey Williams commented that the builder her son is using mentioned it as a positive for Kent County. Mr. Story made a motion to present the legislation to the County Commissioners, the motion was seconded by Ms. Williams and unanimously approved.

Mr. Story stated congratulations to Jamie Williams for achieving her Economic Development Certification (CEcD) a significant and important milestone.

Mr. Mackey shared the following updates:

- On October 3, the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed two applications. The first was for an administrative special exception for a patio and pavilion, which was approved by the Department on October 28. The second was for an administrative special exception and variance for a small solar array installation at a residence, which is scheduled for review by the Department on November 21.
- On October 17, the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed two applications. The first was for a farm stand via a minor site plan to be located at 10811 Worton Road. The second application was for a proposed buffer variance to construct a 44-square-foot, storage-room addition on the back of an existing cottage located entirely within the Critical Area buffer.

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- On Thursday, October 31, the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed three applications. These were a lot line adjustment to combine two parcels, an administrative variance for a rear deck, which is scheduled for review by the Department on November 14, and a proposed sign variance to allow six signs, with each sign being 32 square feet in area, at Millington Crossing on MD 301.

Ms. Genter asked about Technical Advisory Committee comments on the sign variance. Mr. Mackey shared options discussed: Variance, Text Amendment, and Zoning Change. After a brief discussion, Mr. Mackey shared some jurisdictions that have won awards for their sign ordinance.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Williams and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:58 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams
Director