



**Audio recordings of the Economic and Tourism Development Commission meetings can be found on the Recordings Tab.**

**February 9, 2022**

Commission Members Present: Sandy Scott, Aaron Bramble, Rob Thompson, Dick Story, Suzanne Einstein, and Charlie Athey

Commission Members Absent: Tracey Williams

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Wright, Economic Development Manager, Jana Carter, Tourism Manager, Shalyn Boulden, Administrative Specialist, Economic and Tourism Development; Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Bramble called the meeting to order. Mr. Bramble requested a motion to approve minutes from the January 12, 2022, meeting. On motion by Mr. Thompson and second by Mr. Story, the January 12, 2022, minutes were unanimously approved.

Cindy Genter, Rock Hall Properties Real Estate, provided a 2021 Home Sales Summary report, presentation attached, see observations and opportunities on slide 6.

Mr. Mackey shared that in 2021, Certificates of Occupancy were issued for 18 new single-family homes, two replacement homes, one accessory farm building, and one renovation of a church to a dwelling unit for a total of 22 homes built. In 2020 there had been 25 new single-family homes and seven replacement homes for a total of 32 homes built. The Planning Commission approved the site plan for Rell's Auto Repair in Worton to allow towing services for MDOT. On the proposed text amendments for the 10% rule and animal-related setbacks, the Planning Commission tabled both items until their next meeting. The Planning Commission also reviewed the 2022 Priority Letter for MDOT in advance of the County Commissioners' review.

Ms. Williams welcomed Charlie Athey to the Economic and Tourism Development Commission and congratulated Ms. Wright on her first anniversary with Kent County. Ms. Williams attended the Great American Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, PA for Fish & Hunt Maryland to represent Kent County and the state of Maryland. The ETDC roster had some errors which have been corrected. The strategic plan was presented to the Commissioners and was adopted by resolution at the Commissioners' February 8, 2022, meeting. The next step is for staff to develop a scorecard to track progress and materials to communicate the goals and strategies to business community stakeholders.

Ms. Carter shared legislation that could affect tourism in Kent County, the legislation is being tracked. Grant reporting that is due on a semi-annual basis has been submitted and approved for reimbursement. The Kent Cultural Alliance has partnered with Marlon Saunders on a play at Washington College. Ms. Carter is working with the State Office of Tourism on Harriet Tubman's birthday celebrations. Three proposals have been received for new Kent County Visitor's Guides that will be reviewed by staff.

Ms. Williams shared for Ms. Wright, ads are being developed within the department and documents are being developed for Kent County Departments for branding consistency. The Rock Hall Enterprise Zone was approved and a press release from The Maryland Department of Commerce was issued. The Upper Shore Micro Ag Grant opened on January 15, 2022, and closes on February 18, 2022, with \$40,000 in funds allocated for the program from the USRC and the County budget. The grant review committee consists of staff and three SCORE mentors. An Industry Network Connection (INC) meeting, in collaboration with SCORE, was held on January 25, 2022, with 100% participation of the ten businesses invited.

Mr. Thompson questioned if zoning was in place within the Town and County to attract affordable housing development, expressing the need for more dense residential zoning.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Mr. Thompson, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:17 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director