



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’.

February 3, 2021

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

Commission Members Absent: Cindy Genther

Also in Attendance: Bob Jacob, County Commissioner; Jamie Williams, Director and Jana Carter, Tourism Manager, Economic & Tourism Development

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting. On motion by Mr. Bramble and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the January 6, 2021 meeting.

Bill Mackey, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning provided an update of the department and projects. The Agriculture Advisory Committee (AAC) recommended favorably on a proposed zoning text amendment, which proposed adding farm breweries as a permitted use to the Agricultural Zoning District (AZD). The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met and virtually reviewed an application submitted by Pep-Up, Inc. for a Major Site Plan Review (Preliminary) for the property at 12213 Galena Road in the First Election District and zoned Employment Center/Industrial (EC/I). Pep-Up is proposing to construct a liquid propane (LP) storage and distribution facility. A new rail siding will be constructed to allow for bulk delivery by railcars. Pep-Up’s site plan and the zoning text amendment to add farm breweries in AZD will be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

Sue Nickerson, Transition Facilitator and Dan Hushion, Coordinator of Special Education, Kent County Public Schools shared information about the High School’s Work Based Learning Initiative. Last year, 24 students were placed at Washington College; this was funded through the grant program. The program is expected to resume July 1, 2021. Ms. Nickerson and Mr. Hushion shared the goals of the program and other partnership opportunities for the business community. Businesses interested in or learning more about hosting students for the work-based learning initiative should contact Ms. Nickerson or Mr. Hushion, contact information is provided at the bottom of the attachment included.

Ms. Williams shared the hiring of a Career Technology Liaison to serve Queen Anne’s and Kent Counties. Queen Anne’s County will hire and supervise the position. The position is being funded by the Upper Shore Regional Council for the first two years. Ms. Williams coordinated a meeting with Kent County Public Schools Administration to discuss the hiring process and how the collaboration would work. Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development, Queen Anne’s County shared the vision and goals of the Career Technology Liaison.

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Ms. Williams asked members to share their thoughts on the value of the weekly staff report. Ms. Gray stated writing about what we do is not as important as what we do, and highlights would be sufficient. Mr. Story recommended focusing on strategies opposed to daily activities and meetings.

Ms. Williams shared the restaurant relief, round two, grant checks are being distributed this week. The lodging grant applications closed on Monday and staff is in the process of reviewing. Although not COVID related the Upper Shore Regional Council Ag Grant Program is progressing alongside the other grants. We received nine applications and a grant review committee is being assembled.

Ms. Williams shared that Katie Wright has been hired to fill the Economic Development Manger position and will begin work on Monday, February 8, 2021. The Administrative Assistant position will be filled with a few months.

Ms. Carter shared a tourism update. Ms. Carter has been working with sales representatives and exploring different vehicles to market Kent County. There has been a recent focus on radio, public and private. WCTR is currently running Hometown Tourism promotions, and WXCY. We will be working with WXPN and WKHS or sponsorship spots. The Commission members asked if we could share some examples of radio spots. Ms. Carter shared some of the projects she has been working on including Rock Hall Museums, Washington College's Heartland Project, Kent Cultural Alliance Network to Freedom, Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, Chestertown Signage Committee.

Mr. Luff asked about data center attraction efforts. Ms. Williams shared that the webpage is live, the brochure has been printed, and we are working on adding to the assets for data center attractions. Ms. Williams shared that with Nancy LaJoice, they have met with the Maryland Department of Commerce's attraction team.

Mr. Luff asked for the selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2021. Ms. Genter in an email nominated Mr. Bramble as Chair. On motion by Ms. Gray and seconded by Mr. Story and carried unanimously to elect Mr. Bramble as Chair for 2021. Ms. Gray nominated Mr. Luff as Vice Chair. On motion by Mr. Story and seconded by Mr. Bramble and carried unanimously to elect Mr. Luff as Vice Chair for 2021 or until which time the Tourism Development Advisory Board and the Economic Development Commission merges

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Bramble seconded by Ms. Gray and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD, Director
Department of Economic & Tourism Development



Kent County Public Schools

Growing a Community of Leaders

Kent County High School Work Based Learning Initiative

Initiative Goals:

- 1) Create a pipeline of students who are ready to enter high-demand jobs in our region
- 2) Strengthen students' work readiness skills through school/business/human service partnerships
- 3) Support students in exploring career options that match their skills and interests

We invite you to help us prepare the upcoming workforce, through the following partnership opportunities:

- Career Fairs
- Guest speakers
- Mentorships (including “how to present yourself” to employers)
- Internships
- Paid Work-Based Learning Placement (at no cost to the host company)

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