

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’.

April 3, 2019

Commission Members Present: Jim Luff, Cindy Genter, Kate Gray, Rob Thompson, Aaron Bramble, Richard Story, and Trae Hoffner

Commission Members Absent: Tracey Williams

Also in Attendance: Amy Moredock, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Jamie Williams, Director, Economic Development; Emily McCoy, Assistant Economic Development.

At 3:02 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting. On motion by Mr. Story and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the March 6, 2019 meeting.

Jeffrey Smith, Targeted Populations, Grant Program Manager, and Patty Shreves, Eastern Shore Apprenticeship & Training Navigator, Department of Labor and Licensing & Regulation presented the youth and registered apprenticeship programs available through the Apprenticeship Maryland Program (AMP).

Ms. Moredock shared a departmental update with the Commission, which included:

- The Planning Commission will meet on April 4, 2019 to review three Agricultural Preservation District applications.
- The Planning Commission will also hear a pier length variance application and the County Commissioners’ remand of the zoning text amendment regarding animal shelters to include this use in the Industrial zoning District.
- The Board of Appeals will render its decision on the pier length variance on April 15.
- The Commissioners will hold hearing regarding the animal shelter amendment and a zoning text amendment to increase the 25,000 sq.ft. building size limitation to 50,000sf in agricultural zoning districts for processing of agricultural products
- The One Energy/Blue Star solar project building permit will be issued once the decommissioning plan has been received by the planning office and the bond in place with the County Commissioners.
- Planning staff is working with Great Oak Manor on a viable expansion plan that incorporates neighbor recommendations received during the related zoning text amendment for Country Inns review and approval.
- In May, the Rock Hall Planning Committee will review a site plan for a new store in Rock Hall.

Mr. Luff attended the Save Our Hospital meeting that was held on March 14th. He shared an update on the senate bills pertaining to the Hospital that are associated with the group's efforts.

Jamie Williams shared a legislative update on SB850 Sales and Use Tax Exemption, Qualified Computer Technology and SB955 Kent County Alcoholic Beverage Act of 20019. Mr. Bramble testified on behalf of Kent County at Economic Matters committee hearing earlier in the day. Ms. McCoy shared a legislative update on the minimum wage law/fight for fifteen.

Jamie Williams shared information on the Washington College Federal Work Study Program. Ms. Williams shared information on an effort with the Upper Shore Regional Council to issue an RFP for a study to determine forward moving recommendations to make Kent County ready for expansion on the 301 corridor. Ms. Williams received feedback from the commission and will share further updates.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, May 1, 2019 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams
Director