

Economic Development Commission
The County Commissioners of Kent County
400 High Street
Chestertown, MD 21620

May 4, 2016

Board Members Present: Bob Jacob, Cindy Genther, Bob Ampula, Kate Gray, and Jim Luff

Board Members Absent: Dan MacLeod, Shreyas Suresh, and Aaron Bramble

Also in Attendance: Commissioner William Short; Doris Mason, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council; Lois Haggerty, RBI Mentor, Maryland Technology Development Corporation, Bob Kramer; and Charlie White, Entrepreneur, The Paver Guide

At 3:00 p.m. the meeting convened. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the March 2 and April 6, 2016 meetings. On motion by Mr. Ampula and seconded by Ms. Genther, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the March 2 and April 6, 2016 meetings.

Ms. Williams introduced Mr. White to the Commission. Ms. Williams also introduced Lois Haggerty and shared that she has taken Ron Hawkins' position as the TEDCO representative in our area.

Mr. White introduced himself and shared he is a resident of Kent County and lives in Worton. The Paver Guide system is a solution for storm water run-off issues. The system can store as much water in the 3 ½" depth as 10" of stone. The system adjusts for slope and can accommodate sidewalks. The pavers are designed to reduce installation time during construction. The traffic load has been tested at 29,600 pounds before failure of the system. This exceeds the State Highway standard of 11,200 pounds. The Paver Guide has received a \$90,000 grant from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) to reduce nutrients going back into the watershed. The second phase of the grant from MPS will include field monitoring and testing.

Ms. Williams shared Kent County High School information that was handed out during the Annual Education breakfast.

Ms. Williams shared the Tidewater Trader advertisement promoting the Revolving Loan Fund and shared the next task is to get rack cards designed and printed.

Ms. Williams requested the brief opinions of the Commission members of the previously proposed Chester River Crossing. Ms. Williams shared the vulnerability and public safety aspect of not proceeding with a secondary crossing. There were concerns of the effect to downtown Chestertown businesses. Most comments were favorable of the crossing concept and shared the concern of trucks traveling in downtown Chestertown. After a brief discussion, the Commission decided they would like to learn more about the previous proposals prior to taking a position. Nina Fleegle, Chair, Young Professionals of Kent County, shared this subject was discussed within the group and they were in agreement that a crossing would be beneficial to the Town.

Safety of the college population crossing Route 213 was discussed. The crossing would mitigate loitering and soliciting of undesirable activity.

Ms. Williams shared that the Enterprise Zone application was submitted to the Department of Commerce on April 15, 2016, and an addendum was requested, clarifying some information previously provided. Kay MacIntosh, Economic Development & Marketing Coordinator, The Town of Chestertown, and Ms. Williams worked on the addendum and Carla Gerber, GIS Specialist, Planning, Housing, and Zoning is working on a few mapping clarifications. The addendum will be submitted by the end of business on May 4, 2016.

Ms. Williams shared that the budget request for Economic Development included an Innovation Internship with Washington College for a student during the fall semester. A line item of \$10,000 was included for assistance to update the 2013 Economic Development Plan.

Ms. Williams requested the opinions of the 301 Employment Center District. There was a short discussion and it was determined that the Commission needs to understand more about the area before a position could be formed. Ms. Williams will request Amy Moredock, Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning present the Commission with a briefing on the properties located along the corridor.

Ms. Williams shared that Kent and Queen Anne's Counties will be partnering a booth at the Chestertown Tea Party to promote a handful of employers that are actively hiring.

Ms. Gray asked if the Commission would like an update on the conceptual plans for development on the property located off Scheeler Road and Route 213. The update will be added to the June agenda.

Mr. Luff asked about support for the F3 Tech regional focus. Mr. Ampula had spoken to Mike Thielke, Executive Director, Eastern Shore Entrepreneurship Center, about Kent County's support. Mr. Thielke presented the regional focus at the April Economic Development Commission meeting. On motion by Mr. Ampula and seconded by Ms. Genter the Commission approved sending a favorable recommendation to the Commissioners, by majority. Ms. Gray and Mr. Jacob abstained.

There was a brief discussion on changing the meeting time of the Economic Development Commission. The Commission agreed that the time would remain at 3:00 p.m. as changing the time would be of no value.

Mr. Ampula asked if anyone was aware of a change to the septic system regulations. Commissioner Short shared that nothing had changed and discussions were ongoing.

A motion was made by Ms. Genter, seconded by Ms. Gray, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:32 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, June 1, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams
Coordinator