

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’.

July 3, 2019

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

Commission Members Absent: Dick Story

Also in Attendance: Bob Jacobs, County Commissioner; Stephanie Jones, Acting Director, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Jamie Williams, Director, Economic Development; and Emily McCoy, Assistant, Economic Development

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the June 5, 2019, meeting. On motion by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Ms. Williams, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the June 5, 2019, meeting.

Ms. Jones shared the following updates:

- During the May Planning Commission meeting the members reviewed and sent a favorable recommendation to the County Commissioners for the update to the County Water and Sewer Plan. It has been approved by the County Commissioners and will include Cacaway and the Bayshore Campground.
- During the June Planning Commission meeting a final site plan was approved for the expansion of an existing concrete facility at Gillespie & Sons, Inc.
- Also, during June, the final site plan for OneEnergy Blue Star, a large-scale solar project in Massey, was approved administratively due to that fact it was inside what was already the approved area for the project. This project is currently under construction.
- The July Planning Commission meeting will include:
 - A variance request from the required 600-foot setback for manure storage facility,
 - a variance request to the 100-foot stream protection corridor,
 - a site plan review for the County’s Worton Maintenance Facility to construct 2 new 60 foot by 100-foot buildings including the demolition of the existing skating rink.
- The remand to the Animal Shelter text amendment was introduced to the County Commissioners last night. A public hearing is scheduled for August 6th.
- Rob Tracey has now joined staff as a Community Planner.
- 33 Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) applicants have been received. The Ag Preservation Board will rank these applications next week and send the recommendations to the County Commissioners for their July 16th meeting.

Clifford Quinn, JD, MBA, presented 'Eastern Shore Accessible Housing and Workforce Development Initiative' to the commission. The presentation was specific to initiatives on the eastern shore to advance workforce housing.

Jamie Williams shared the updated bylaws as discussed at the June Economic Development Commission meeting. Ms. Williams shared grant efforts and award totals for FY2019. The department's marketing efforts and information about the upcoming Maryland Department of Commerce, Secretary's visit was shared.

Ms. McCoy presented the updated support and consulting webpage found on the Kent County website.

Mr. Foster, Chestertown Town Councilman, shared the tax differential issue between the County and the Towns. Mr. Foster is encouraging an audit and asked the Commission members to consider appropriate organizations to conduct the audit.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Gray, seconded by Mr. Bramble and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams
Director