

**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’.**

**August 5, 2020**

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

Also in Attendance: Stephanie Jones, Environmental Planner, Planning, Housing, and Zoning; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; Bob Jacob, County Commissioner; Jamie Williams, Director, Economic Development; and Emily McCoy, Administrative Assistant, Economic Development

At 3:03 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2020 meeting. On motion by Ms. Story and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the July 1, 2020 meeting.

Ms. Jones provided a Planning, Housing, and Zoning update.

From the July Planning Commission Meeting

- Update to Campground ZTA per conditions of Critical Area Commission review of CHR 3 – 2020 for campgrounds in the Recourse Conservation District requiring Growth Allocation to expand.
- Update of Growth Allocation Policy per conditions of the Critical Area Commission review of adopted 2020 policy
- Final site plan review for major subdivision of Fifth Investments, LLC. to terminate the existing Delta Heights Condominium Regime and create fee-simple lots for each existing dwelling. Final site plan was granted.
- Major concept site plan review for Delmarva Power & Light Company to upgrade and an addition to the substation outside of Chestertown along State Route 291.
- Dixie Land Energy is proposed a concept site plan review for a proposed liquid propane and fuel oil storage and distribution facility. This application also requires a variance to be granted. Applications were tabled due to incomplete Citizens Participation Plan. Plan and meeting have been completed and they are on the agenda for tomorrow PC meeting.

Form the County Commissioners Meetings

- Introduction for the update of Campground ZTA (CHR 6-2020) per Critical Area Commission approval with conditions.
- Discussion for update to the Growth Allocation Policy per Critical Area Commission approval with conditions.
- Introduction of a ZTA for Microbrewery, a class D alcohol retail business (5-2020) in the Crossroads Commercial Zoning District

General Information

- Comprehensive Rezoning Update Portal information has been posted to the Planning, Housing, and Zoning webpage. Stay tuned for updates and Zoning Text Amendments and Zoning Map Amendments on webpage. Link:  
<https://www.kentcounty.com/planning/comprehensive-rezoning-update-portal>

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EDC Minutes

Jamie Williams shared:

#### CRF CARES Grants

Kent CARES for Growth Grant – now closed. Received 60. Potential to fund approximately 40. Working with businesses to help them qualify.

COVID Modification Grant – now closed. Received 36. Potential to fund approximately 50. Working with businesses to help them qualify.

We have delivered 3 sets of checks to businesses to date.

State Grants – 20 business received grants from Kent County.

335 businesses have received PPP Loans in Kent County.

Additional funding from the State of Maryland is now available.

#### USRC Marketing Grant

24 applications received; 15 businesses selected.

Signed grant agreements received.

Hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> webinar this past Tuesday – 22 businesses in attendance; shared the link with the business community.

#### Kent CARES Business Consultant

Introduction to the economic development partners including the local banks.

Have already begun assisting the community. Received positive feedback from the first business they are assisting.

David and Erin Caines have reached out to all the businesses that contacted economic development since the commencement of the COVID.

We met the SBDC's new small business consultant.

The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission, Policy Committee, held a hearing to review a policy amendment to allow growers to expand and grow in auxiliary locations in the State. The request was denied. Curio Wellness is evaluating their options based on that policy decision. Verio Health has received approval to relocate their entire growing operation into Kent County. The grow facility is expected to bring 12-24 jobs.

Mr. Luff requested an update on Morgnec Solar Project. Ms. Heller shared a stakeholder meeting has taken place to discuss alternative modifications to their proposal. The pandemic has delayed forward motion.

Mr. Story inquired about recognition of Bernadette Bowman's retirement. Ms. Heller shared that the County Commissioner would be recognizing her 19 years of county service on August 25, 2020. Ms. Williams shared that she has assumed the responsibility of tourism at this time. Economic development and tourism development are being evaluated for effective and efficient administration moving forward.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Story, seconded by Ms. Gray and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:38 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, September 2, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CECD  
Director