



**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’.**

**October 14, 2020**

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

Also in Attendance: Bob Jacob, County Commissioner; Shelley Heller, County Administrator; Jamie Williams, Director, Economic Development; Jana Carter, Assistant Director, Tourism Development

At 3:12 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2020 meeting. On motion by Mr. Story and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the September 2, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Mackey provided an update on the Planning, Housing, and Zoning activities since the last update. The Planning Commission met and discussed a special exception for the adapted reuse of a Historic Structure in Rock Hall. The Chestertown Substation has gone through technical advisory committee review and will move to site plan review. There is a major site plan in process for Pep Up on Galena Road. The Comprehensive Rezoning Task Force members are scheduled to meet on October 15 at 5 p.m., this will be a logistics meeting. Updates are posted here <https://www.kentcounty.com/planning/comprehensive-rezoning-update-portal>. Updates are also emailed regularly. Mr. Mackey asked if anyone not receiving the emails would like to be added should contact him.

Mr. Story gave an overview of the subcommittee’s discussions regarding an Economic & Tourism Development Recommendation. The common bottom line of both departments is to help businesses grow and increase the tax base in Kent County. The subcommittee consisted of Jim Luff, Chair Economic Development Commission (EDC) and Greg Waddell, Chair Tourism Development Advisory Board (TDAB). The subcommittee met twice times and conversations were had with staff and all members of the EDC and the TDAB with one exception, due to a scheduling conflict. Mr. Story also met with staff, Sam Shoge, Executive Director, Kent County Chamber of Commerce. The recommendation will be presented to the TDAB on Tuesday at their October meeting. There was a robust discussion about the departments and boards.

Jamie Williams shared the Maryland Chamber Foundation, The Future for Data Centers in Maryland event and Kent County’s participation. The tri-fold brochure has been finalized and printed and is now available. They are currently being distributed electronically.

Ms. Williams shared she completed the International Economic Development Commission, Strategic Planning Course.

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Ms. Williams shared the County Commissioners approved \$50,000 for a Sanitization grants and the county will reopen the COVID modification grants. These grants are funded from the Coronavirus Relief Fund through the CARES Act.

Economic Development Week in Maryland 2020 begins on Monday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. A video has been created and will be shared on social media.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Gray, seconded by Mr. Bramble and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 pm. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 3:00 pm in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD  
Director