



**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’.**

**December 2, 2020**

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

Commission Members Absent: 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 3:00 p.m. Mr. Luff called the meeting to order. Mr. Luff requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2020 meeting. On motion by Mr. Story and seconded by Ms. Gray, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes from the November 4, 2020 meeting.

Jamie Williams gave an update on COVID grants available to businesses and organizations, staff continues to process applications and distribute checks. The CoronaVirus Updates, Business Resources tab continues to be updated with financial and other business assistance resources <https://www.kentcounty.com/coronavirus>.

Ms. Williams shared that the departmental restructure was going before the County Commissioners on December 8, 2020. Currently two interns, Hannah Kinne and Nolan Lindsay, are assisting with social media, grant processing, updating the visitor’s guide and business directory, and general office work.

Kent County is now a member of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Williams is currently serving on two legislative committees; Labor & Employment Policy and Business Regulations & Operations

Mr. Luff brought forward the reappointment of a member that is eligible to serve another term. Ms. Williams shared that Mr. Bramble has expressed an interest in serving another full term. A motion was made by Mr. Story seconded Ms. Gray and carried unanimously to recommend reappointment of Aaron Bramble for his second full term on the Economic Development Commission. The members who have terms expiring in the next few months have been asked to continue to serve until a decision is made on the possible merger of the Economic Development Commission and the Tourism Development Advisory Board.

Ms. Williams shared general information about the Comprehensive Rezoning process, notifications, and resources for those who want to follow along and/or participate. Mr. Luff complimented the webpage and the process to date.

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Ms. Gray asked if we have been able to keep up with our basic economic development goals given current staffing shortage and COVID assistance being provided. Ms. Williams shared that Nancy LaJoice, Senior Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce has been a tremendous asset in assisting Kent County to remain focused. Ms. LaJoice shared our efforts to introduce Commerce to Kent County, sharing sites that are applicable for business attraction and keeping the eastern shore top of mind. Ms. LaJoice shared a residential project she and Mr. Story recently discussed with a developer; the project is in Betterton. Ms. Williams shared that with Ms. Genther's assistance, they came up with a few additional actions that can be taken to get additional sites listed on our webpage. Ms. Gray asked about the zoning availability for all the towns on the website. Ms. Williams explained that the zoning for the towns is on the site as a static map, not an interactive map the County is utilizing. Ms. Gray shared the importance of having this information readily available.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Gray seconded by Ms. Genther and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD  
Director