



Economic & Tourism Development Commission

December 11, 2024

Commission Members Present: Dick Story, Paula Reeder, Sandy Scott, Judy Gifford, David Bowman, Judy Crow, and Charlie Athey.

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Abbott, Economic Development Manager, and Rose Osborn, Administrative Specialist, Economic and Tourism Development.

At 3:00 p.m. Mr. Story called the meeting to order. Mr. Story requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2024, meeting. On a motion by Ms. Reeder seconded by Mr. Bowman, the November 13, 2024, minutes were unanimously approved.

Mr. Story reported that the Commission will hold elections in January 2025. He further shared that Mr. Athey will move up to the Chair's position and that Ms. Reeder and Ms. Gifford have both offered to run for Vice-Chair.

Larry DiRe, Chestertown Town Manager, introduced Bradley Moore, Town Planning/Zoning Administration. The Town has not received any applications, drawings, or anything actionable for the next phase of the Armory. The 98 Canon Property must go before the Historic District Review Board for design review. Washington College has several smaller-scale projects including an indoor tennis facility. Enterprise Car Rental has shown interest in relocating from Flatland Road to the former Hill Management property at 830 High Street and has submitted a request for a Zoning Text Amendment to the Town's Planning Commission.

Mr. Moore shared that the Town is in the process of reviewing the Comprehensive Plan and once it is complete, they will begin the rezoning process with an anticipated completion sometime in 2025.

Mr. DiRe shared that the 10-year Recreation Master Plan has been completed and will be presented to the Mayor and Council at their meeting on December 16, 2024. The Historic District Guidelines are currently under review by an external source and should be completed by January or February with adoption in early March. Mr. Moore shared that the Planning Commission gave favorable a recommendation with conditions for a zoning text amendment for Talkie to build a television tower located at 99 Talbot Blvd. The zoning text amendment will be introduced at the Town's December 16, 2024, meeting, and a public hearing will be held on January 6, 2025.

Mr. DiRe advised that the Town has approximately \$113,000 in ARPA funds for recreation projects. These funds will provide lights at Gateway Park. There is also discussion about adding a skate park facility at Gateway Park. Other projects include benches and a kayak launch at Chestertown Marina. A grant has been submitted to the Department of Natural Resources' Equity Greenscapes program to install a playground at Bailey Park.

Radcliffe Meadows, a housing development at the end of Talbot Blvd., is moving forward and working through the review process.

Mr. DiRe shared that the Town has been working on a short-term rental ordinance, there is no completed draft at this time.

Ms. Osborn gave an update on the Museums of Kent, advising that they have just finished the first semester with a Washington College intern who was instrumental in creating the virtual driving tour and the virtual Chestertown Historical Walking Tour. Ms. Osborn advised that she has been working with the museums to update and/or create new museum brochures and a driving tour passport with plans to apply for a Stories of the Chesapeake grant to fund printing.

Ms. Williams and Mrs. Abbott are working on the Micro Ag Grants and hope to open applications no later than January. Handouts were provided at the University of Maryland, Extension Office's Ag Breakfast and information will also be pushed out on Economic Development social media channels and newsletter, sent to the Soil Conservation office, the University of Maryland Extension Office, and the Kent County High School Agricultural program.

Ms. Williams and Mrs. Abbott are sorting through the data collected from the Business Retention Expansion business surveys and have a meeting scheduled with HubSpot to go over how to capture the data in a manner to generate reports.

Ms. Williams and Nancy LaJoice are reviewing a study from the Maryland Economic Development Council for the Department of Commerce and are hopeful that the report will be used in updating the Maryland Strategic Plan.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Scott, seconded by Ms. Crow, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 p.m. The Commission agreed to meet again on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director