

**Business Meeting Minutes for March 24, 2021**

**I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:**

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Deoudes at 9:00 a.m. at the Chesapeake Heritage Visitor Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom, an in-person meeting was not offered. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Kathy Deoudes, Chairman  
Heather Bacher, Vice Chairman (via Zoom)  
Lee Bridgmon, Secretary (via Zoom)  
Ed Beres, Treasurer (via Zoom)  
Jesse Parks (via Zoom)  
John Anderes (via Zoom)  
Jon Cook (via Zoom)  
Hazen Arnold  
Rob Marsh (via Zoom)  
Mike Rosendale (via Zoom)

**Not Present:**

Brian DeMoss  
Jeremy Reynolds

**Staff Present:**

Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic & Tourism Development  
Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator, Economic & Tourism Development (via Zoom)

**Others present:**

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County (via Zoom)  
Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County (via Zoom)  
Todd Mohn, County Administrator, Queen Anne's County (via Zoom)  
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce (via Zoom)  
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation  
Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager, Town of Centreville (via Zoom)  
Dr. Cliff Coppersmith, President, Chesapeake College (via Zoom)  
Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs, Chesapeake College (via Zoom)  
Adam Tolley, CTE Supervisor, Queen Anne's County Public School (via Zoom)  
Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris (via Zoom)  
Jody Schulz, Owner, Fisherman's Village/Kent Narrows Boatel (via Zoom)  
Melissa Kelly, Eastern Shore Regional Director, Senator Chris Van Hollen (via Zoom)  
Royce Herman, Resident, Queen Anne's County (via Zoom)

**II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:**

On a motion made by Mrs. Bacher and seconded by Mr. Anderes the March meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bacher and seconded by Mr. Anderes, the minutes from the February meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

**III. Treasurers Report:** Mr. Beres reported that the account managed by Chesapeake Charities has a current balance of \$3848.80. There has been no recent activity.

**IV. Commissioners Report:** Queen Anne's County Commissioners, Jack Wilson and Chris Corchiarino updated the board on behalf of the County Commissioners. Commissioner Wilson deferred his time to Commissioner Corchiarino for an update on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution in Queen Anne's County. The federal government is now shipping Covid-19 vaccines directly to retail partners such as Walgreens on Kent Island. Safeway is receiving COVID-19 vaccines directly from the State of Maryland. Safeway is working closely with Dr. Ciatola to get some Queen Anne's County citizens at highest risk vaccinated daily, before moving to their online sign-ups. QAC is still receiving Moderna vaccines, but overall, vaccine supply remains low. A few mass vaccination sites have been set up on the Eastern Shore, but none currently in Queen Anne's County.

**V. Department of Economic and Tourism Update:** Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC. The rebranding process with Choptank Communications continues to move forward. All of the small 8-10 person focus groups have been completed, and we are now working on individual interviews. A community survey intended to residents, business owners and visitors to our area will be sent out through email and social media on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Deadline to complete the survey will be April 12<sup>th</sup>. No new conceptual projects have been reviewed by the department this month, the last conceptual project to be reviewed was Royal Farms. There were 4 citizen sponsored text amendments submitted to Planning and Zoning in February. Mrs. Tinelli will email the text amendments to the EDC for review and comment. Queen Anne's County will be hosting the Bay Bridge Boat show April 15<sup>th</sup>-April 18<sup>th</sup> at Bay Bridge Marina. The department has been working closely with the Historic Stevensville Arts & Entertainment District to help facilitate spending of the \$13K grant received from the Maryland State Arts Council. Interviews for the Queen Anne's County/Kent County Career Technology Liaison were held this past week. A candidate has been chosen by the interview committee; details are being finalized.

**VI. Presentation-Chesapeake College:** Dr. Cliff Coppersmith, President of Chesapeake College gave an overview to the board on the current state of the college due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A mass vaccination site will be set up at Chesapeake College beginning April 7<sup>th</sup> from 8am-4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The testing center will continue to operate on Mondays. At the height of testing during the holidays, the site was seeing 150-200 people per day. Chesapeake College has been severely impacted by the pandemic. In March of 2020 all students were sent home from campus, and within two weeks the college pivoted to online classes. In June 2020, Health Professions returned to in-person learning due to the inability to complete hands-on lab work online. They also brought back welding and CDL truck driving with safety procedures in place. As of March 2021, Marine Trades is close to returning to in-person learning. The College is working closely with Queen Anne's County public schools to fill the need for a Culinary Arts program. Financial resources have been received from both the state and federal government through the CARES Act and COVID Relief Act funding. Funding has been used to directly support students, sanitation, and faculty training. Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs followed up Dr. Coppersmiths presentation

with an overview of Workforce Education Investments. The presentation included information on new support and teaching positions, physical plant expansions and improvements, simulation technology, partnerships with local and state organizations, and information on the streamlined/updated curriculum.

**VII. Old Business:**

**A. Comprehensive Plan Update: Review of Work Session 3/5/21-** This work session reviewed the survey and responses that EDC members participated in during January and February of this year. Common themes taken from this meeting are demographic differences, infrastructure limitations, broadband, workforce development, and the need for the new comp plan to have a more positive, upselling tone. Survey information will be shared with the Comp Plan consultant ahead of the Economic Development Special Topics Workshop on April 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:30-3:30pm. The Economic Development Commission has been invited to the Technical Committee Economic Development Zoom meeting on April 27<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm-3:30pm. Mrs. Tinelli will provide the Zoom meeting information to those interested in participating.

**B. Sub-Committee Update:**

- a. **Permitting:** No current update at this time. Mr. Parks plans to set up a meeting with Sharon Dobson from the Planning Commission in the near future.
- b. **Workforce Development:** Rob Marsh provided an update on behalf of the Workforce Development sub-committee. They are currently working with Commissioner Wilson, Linda Friday, Adam Tolley and Mrs. Tinelli on hiring a Career Technology Liaison. With the COVID pandemic it has been hard to get information out about the Maryland Youth Apprenticeship program to students, parents and local businesses.
- c. **Broadband:** No current update at this time. Mrs. Deoude suggested getting the contact information for the Choptank representative to put him in touch with Mr. Reynolds.

**VIII. New Business:**

**A. Introduction of New Board Members:** The following slate of individuals were approved by the County Commissioners during their March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

1. Larissa Costello, Co-Founder, Ad Astra Wealth Management, representing the Finance industry sector, and a resident of District 2.
2. James Riley, President & CEO, Clean Systems, LLC and Therapy Systems DME, Inc., representing the Healthcare industry sector, and resident of District 3.
3. Shawna Truitt, Principal, Patriot Acres Farm Brewery, representing the Agriculture and Food Service & Hospitality industry sector, and a resident of District 1.

These individuals will serve on the Economic Development Commission for a term of 3 years beginning January 1, 2021. A new member orientation has been scheduled for the end of March, before they join the April EDC meeting.

**B. New Funding Opportunities for Small Business:** Federal Funds from the American Rescue Act will be given directly to Queen Anne's County. The County will receive half of its allotted \$9,771,085 in funding within 60 days and the remainder of the funding a year later. Allowable uses include, mitigating Covid-19 health emergencies and its negative economic impact by providing assistance to households, small business, nonprofits, and the Tourism, Travel and Hospitality industry. Funds may also be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Towns in Queen Anne's County

will receive an additional \$6,559,333 and will be allocated as such; Barclay-\$137,906, Centreville-\$4,132,181, Church Hill-\$629,355, Millington-\$504,821, Queen Anne-\$178,024, Queenstown-\$58-,879 and Sudlersville \$396,167. The Bay Bridge Airport will receive \$32K in funding. The Department of Economic & Tourism Development will be managing additional funding opportunities for Restaurants (\$184,427.57) and Hotels/Lodging (\$83,830.71), as well as a new program for Online Sale & Teleworking (\$4,191,54). Future department managed funding opportunities includes the Non-Profit Assistance Grant Fund (\$166,668). This grant opportunity will support non-profits impacted by COVID-19. Please visit our website [www.choosequeenannes.com](http://www.choosequeenannes.com) and click on COVID-19 Business Resources to view all the details on current federal, state and county programs available to businesses.

## IX. Liaison Reports

- A. Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday, President provided an update of behalf of the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce. There was a Zoom meeting scheduled on March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the partnership between Queen Anne's County Public Schools and Chesapeake College's Culinary Arts program scheduled to being Fall 2021. Several local restaurant owners participated and would like to be involved once the program beings. In partnership with Kent County Chamber, they will be hosting a Zoom legislative wrap-up in April. The Chamber's annual golf tournament will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Queenstown Harbor Golf. A community shred day will be held at Anne Arundel Medical Center on Kent Island, this is a free event open to the public. Farm Charm & Home Décor ribbon cutting at the Queenstown Premium Outlets will be held on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 11am.
- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Executive Director provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. Active construction projects occurring in the Kent Narrows include phase two of the Kent Narrows Marine Boatel, Hyatt Place and MarineMax Kent Island. The Planning Commission has extended the Holiday Inn Express 40 room addition permit for one year due to the pandemic. The Kent Narrows Foundation is participating in a Delmarva Life segment that is set to air Memorial Day weekend. This segment is funded by the Maryland Office of Tourism in partnership with QAC Economic & Tourism Development. Filming will take place in the Kent Narrows on May 6<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>. They are closely watching HB1117 that will prohibit fishing off the Kent Narrows Draw Bridge, as well as under it. KNDF has been working to update their community plan in conjunction with Queen Anne's County Comprehensive Plan update. A Zoom meeting will be held for the Kent Narrows Comp Plan on Thursday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Upcoming events in the Kent Narrows include the Eastern Shore Sea Glass Festival, Chesapeake Motoring Festival as well as Fisherman's Crab Deck and Big Owl's Tiki Bar opening day on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- C. Town of Centreville:** Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager provided an update on behalf of the Town of Centreville. They are currently in the middle of their budget presentations and Comprehensive Planning. They are also working closely with Mrs. Clendaniel and Queen Anne's County Tourism on the Delmarva Life opportunity with WBOC that will be aired on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Queen Anne's County Public Schools:** Adam Tolley, CTE Supervisor provided an updated-on behalf of Queen Anne's County Public Schools. In partnership with Chesapeake College, they have been working to create a Culinary Arts Program for Queen Anne's County students. A successful zoom meeting was recently held with local restaurant owners to gage community interest in supporting this program. Mr. Tolley is working on a marketing grant in the amount of \$15K to use for the Maryland Youth Apprenticeship Program. Beginning in April, students will return to in-person full time learning 4 days a week.
- E. Senator Chris Van Hollen:** Melissa Kelly, Eastern Shore Regional Director provided and update on behalf of Senator Van Hollen. The American Relief plan has passed. If you need assistance on funding utilization, please contact Melissa directly.

- X. **Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Parks, and seconded by Mrs. Bacher, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:30am.