

**Business Meeting Minutes for May 26, 2021**

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

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Deoudes at 9:02 a.m. at The Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center, 425 Piney Narrows Rd., Chester, MD. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions being lifted, the meeting was held in-person or via Zoom. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Kathy Deoudes, Chairman  
Heather Bacher, Vice Chairman (via Zoom)  
Lee Bridgmon, Secretary  
Ed Beres, Treasurer (via Zoom)  
Jesse Parks  
Hazen Arnold  
Jim Reilly  
Rob Marsh  
Brian DeMoss  
Larissa Costello (via Zoom)  
Shawna Truitt (Via Zoom)

**Not Present:**

Mike Rosendale  
John Anderes  
Jon Cook  
Jeremy Reynolds

**Staff Present:**

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

**Others present:**

Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County  
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce  
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation  
Adam Tolley, CTE Supervisor, Queen Anne's County Public School (via Zoom)

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

On a motion made by Mr. Parks and seconded by Mrs. Bridgmon the May meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

On a motion made by Mrs. Bridgmon and seconded by Mr. Parks, the minutes from the April 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 \$3,832.19. There has been no recent activity.
- IV. **Commissioners Report:** Queen Anne's County Commissioners, Chris Corchiarino updated the board on behalf of the County Commissioners. At the May 25, 2021, County Commissioners meeting the 2022 county budget was approved. On June 22, 2021, there will be a public hearing for the citizen sponsored text amendment County Ordinance 21-02: Major and Minor Multifamily Dwelling and Non-Residential Height Requirements in the Urban (UC) Zoning District on behalf of his plans for the Bay Bridge Marina Re-Development Project. Due to a decreased demand for COVID-19 testing and the vaccine, both will be held strictly through the Queen Anne's County Department of Health. Vaccine supply throughout the County is no longer an issue.
- V. **Department of Economic and Tourism Update:** Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC. The first Travel & Tourism Advisory Council (TTAC) meeting was held in the beginning of May. The Queen Anne's County/Kent County Career Technology Liaison, Connie Dean will begin June 6, 2021. The interviews for the position of Administrative Assistant I have been completed, and the chosen candidate has accepted the position. The department is still accepting applications for an Economic Development Coordinator. The grant review committee met at the end of April to award the third round of Restaurant funding (\$184,427.57) and the second round of Hotel/Lodging (\$83,830.71) funding. The County Commissioners have signed the agreement from DHCD to award \$166,668 in funding to support non-profits adversely effected by the COVID-19 pandemic, program guidelines are pending. Current projects include the Urgent Care Facility in Chester with an anticipated Fall 2021 opening as well as Iteberco who recently completed a \$8.6M remodel at their new 60k SF facility located within the Chesapeake Bay Business Park. The 10K Across the Bay returns to Queen Anne's County on October 31, 2021, hosted by Corrigan Sports. The Economic Development Incentive Fund requires its awardees to attending quarterly meetings with SCORE. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings had been delayed. Over the last month Mrs. Tinelli and SCORE representatives were able to meet with Ten Eyck Brewing, Cult Classic Brewing, Barbeque Bueno/The Station Steak & Grille (formerly Smoke Rattle & Roll/Joshua's Steak & Chop), Sudlersville Laundromat, Open Seas Coffee Roasters, and Blackwater Distilling & Tavern. New projects include Humble Heart Catering expansion and a property in Millington that is zoned suburban industrial looking at potential options. The WBOC Delmarva Life Small Town Series-Kent Narrows will air on May 27, 2021, at 5pm. The Department is currently heavily involved with the Historic Stevensville Arts & Entertainment District working to bring events back to the area.
- VI. **Presentation of DataStory:** The Department of Economic & Tourism Development received funding from the Upper Shore Regional Council to create and publish a DataStory. This business attraction tool is designed and used as an interactive web-based presentation to convey data-grounded narratives to viewers to build collaboration, influence stakeholders and lead change within Queen Anne's County. This DataStory will be featured on the homepage of the choosequeenannes.com website.
- VII. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Comprehensive Plan Update:** At the last Planning Commission meeting a board member voiced his concern about the lack of participation from the agriculture community. The Land Use Special Topic Committee is scheduled for June 3, 2021.

**B. Subcommittee Update:**

- a. **Permitting:** Mr. Parks provided an update on behalf of the committee. The committee has a meeting scheduled with Queen Anne's County Planning and Zoning on June 16, 2021. An invite will be sent to all EDC board members who would like to attend this meeting.
- b. **Workforce Development:** The committee is currently working with Chesapeake College to develop a Culinary Arts Program that will accommodate up to 10 students. Please help spread the word to local restaurants who would be willing to take on an apprentice and to students who may be interested in the program. Mrs. Friday is currently working on scholarship opportunities for the first 10 students to attend. Workforce Housing will be addressed at the June meeting.
- c. **Broadband:** The committee is currently working with ISP providers that work with the broadband cooperative in both the commercial and residential sectors to form a committee. They are hoping to schedule their first meeting in the near future.

**VIII. New Business: NO NEW BUSINESS WAS DISCUSSED DURING THE May 26, 2021 EDC MEETING**

**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. The Chamber hosted a "Cash Mob" to support a local business by spending a certain amount of money. This event was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> at the Gifted Crab in Chester. The annual golf tournament was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Queenstown Harbor Golf. The first in-person mixer of the year will be held at Bridges Restaurant on June 14<sup>th</sup>. The Jetty Dock Bar has also requested to host a mixer. There will be an Economic Overview held at Prospect Bay with Mrs. Tinelli as the guest speaker.
- B. **Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Executive Director provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. The Kent Narrows Travel Guide will be released to the public within the next two weeks. The WBOC Delmarva Life Small Town Series-Kent Narrows will be aired Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. KNDF is hoping to do another episode in the Fall. The Foundation is working on a pedestrian way finding project in partnership with Queen Anne's County. The bid for this project was awarded to Gable Communications.
- C. **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 continue to work on the creation of a Culinary Arts Program for Queen Anne's County students. There are currently three (3) area restaurants, Fisherman's Inn, Bridges Restaurant, and the Narrows Restaurant signed on to be Youth Apprenticeship Sponsors for this program.

- X. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Parks, and seconded by Mr. Marsh, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:57am.