



Business Meeting Minutes for June 22, 2022

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum:

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jesse Parks at 9:02 a.m. at The Chesapeake Heritage & Visitors Center, 425 Piney Narrows Rd., Chester, MD. The meeting was held in-person, with the option to participate via Zoom.

The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Jesse Parks, Chairman
Heather Bacher, Vice Chair (Zoom)
Lee Bridgman, Secretary
Jim Reilly
Jaime Thompson (Zoom)
Deayna Ewell
Shelly Gross-Wade (Zoom)
Larissa Costello
Hazen Arnold
Shawna Truitt (Zoom)

Not Present:
Ed Beres, Treasurer
Brian DeMoss
Lara Wilson
Jeremy Reynolds

Staff Present:
Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic & Tourism Development
Rebecca Lepter, Economic Development Coordinator
Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator, ED & Tourism Dev. (via Zoom)

Economic Development Commission:

Jesse Parks, Chair
Heather Bacher, Vice Chair
Ed Beres, Treasurer
Lee Bridgman, Secretary
Brian Demoss
Hazen Arnold
Jeremy Reynolds
James P. Reilly
Larissa Costello
Lara Wilson
Deayna Ewell
Jamie Thompson
Shelly Gross-Wade

County Commissioners:

James J. Moran, At Large
Jack N. Wilson, Jr., District 1
Stephen Wilson, District 2
Philip L. Dumenil, District 3
Christopher M. Corchiarino, District 4

Others present:

Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Nancy LaJoyce, Sr. Business Dev. Representative, Dept. of Commerce
Susan O'Neill, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council
Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressmen Andy Harris
Steve Johnson, Planner, QAC Planning & Zoning
Grayson Middleton, Eastern Shore Outreach Coord., Office of Governor Hogan
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Lanette Power-Waters, Communication Specialist, QAC Board of Education
Bob Zimmeroff, Apprentice & Training Navigator, MD Dept. Of Labor (Zoom)

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

Agenda: On a motion made by Jim Reilly and seconded by Lee Bridgman, the June meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

Minutes: A discrepancy was noted for the KNDF grant reward total which was corrected by Ms. Gallow. On a motion made by Jim Reilly and seconded by Hazen Arnold, the May meeting minutes were approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

III. Treasurers Report: Mr. Beres supplied a statement for Mr. Parks to share with the EDC Board. The account managed by Chesapeake Charities has a current balance of \$2,803.26.

IV. Commissioners Report: Queen Anne's County Commissioner, Jack Wilson, provided an update to Ms. Tinelli for her to share with the EDC Board on his behalf.

- A. The county budget has been approved.
- B. The County Commissioners are lowering property taxes. He will follow with more details at the next meeting.

V. Department of Economic & Tourism Development Update: Heather Tinelli, Director of ED & Tourism Development, provided an update for the EDC members and liaisons.

- A. The department is working with the county attorney regarding EDIF Conditional Loans that are currently in default.
- B. Ms. Tinelli and staff recently met with Dan Schneckenburger with the Upper Shore Workforce Investment Board to discuss funding sources and ways in which they can work together.
- C. Visited Eastern Shore Sand & Gravel to discuss their plans to expand.
- D. Met with Hole in the Wall Gang who purchased a portion of Aspen Institute to create a camp for medically fragile children.
- E. Facilitated the signing of the MOU between Corrigan Sports, the County and MDTA for the Bay Bridge Run this November 13, 2022.
- F. Hosted a Business Resource Meeting with the QAC Chamber of Commerce for Economic Development Partners.
- G. Hosted a Workforce Dev. Resource Seminar with the QAC Chamber of Commerce.
- H. The Governor approved the NEPA II study for the Bay Bridge. This will now move to Phase 2 make environmental impact and placement.
- I. Department visited and toured PRS Guitars and discussed workforce development opportunities and interest.

- J. Ms. Tinelli has been asked to speak today at the MEDA Primer regarding county agencies and how they work.
- K. Ms. Tinelli attended the MD Municipal League Conference last week.
- L. Today, Ms. Tinelli has a meeting with the new manager at Queenstown Premium Outlets. They will discuss ways in which QACETD can support their efforts.
- M. The Micro Ag Grant has come to a close, money has been distributed and the department is tying up loose ends.
- N. The Ferry Project was submitted to EDA for funding and our department is now working with Visit Annapolis on a Destination Development Grant that will focus on all the counties that touch the Bay.
- O. Attended the monthly MDMO meeting through MD Tourism. We are waiting to hear the total funds that will be allocated to QAC for FY23 to support Tourism.
- P. Worked with Chesapeake Bay Magazine on 2 separate photo shoots. One was paid through our annual campaign, and one was free and initiated by the magazine. One was focused on Kent Narrows and the other was focused on waterfront destinations.
- Q. Stevensville Arts & Entertainment District has applied for and received a Safety Grant and a QAC Arts Council Grant. Our staff continues to support and attend meetings.
- R. Workforce Development- Ms. Dean continues to regularly meet with school staff and continues planning efforts for next school year.
- S. Currently, the departments main focus is the Rural MD Grant.

VIII. Liaison Reports

- A. **Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Executive Director provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation:
 - i. This Saturday, the National Guard Band will be performing at the KI Yacht Club.
 - ii. Independence Day Celebration will be on July 4th at the Chesapeake Heritage & Visitor Center.
 - iii. The Delmarva Life program featuring Kent Narrows has aired.
 - iv. The Kent Narrows Community Plan has been completed.
 - v. The Text Amendment for Jamal Properties has moved forward as did the Text Amendment for the KI Yacht Club.
- B. **QAC Chamber of Commerce-** Linda Friday, President, provided updates:
 - i. Co-Hosted the seminar with QAC ED and was excited to be able to show partners other opportunities in which to list jobs.
 - ii. Attended the Dept. of Labor Job Fair in Talbot County to see if it may be something that would be beneficial to do in QAC. The attendance was very low; however, Ms. Friday did take the time to meet with all the businesses,
 - iii. The Chamber is very involved in the QAC Goes Purple Campaign. They are working with the Health Department on "Project Stable Life" which will offer each business in the county a box with Narcan as well as training for staff.
- C. **QAC Planning and Zoning-** Steve Johnson, Planner with QAC Planning and Zoning, provided an update.
 - i. On June 9th, the Planning Commission approved concept plans for KI Crossing and Chesapeake Square Apts.
 - ii. On June 28th, there will be a STAC Meeting for the Bay Bridge Marina.
 - iii. Mr. Johnson also included a Project Status Update form to the EDC Board.

- D. Office of Congressman Andy Harris-** Mike Arntz, Community Liaison for Congressman Andy Harris, was present to provide a brief update.
- i. Congress is back in session as of the previous day, June 21, 2022.
- E. QAC Board of Education-** Lanette Power-Waters, Communication Specialist for QAC Board of Education, provide an update on behalf of the Board of Ed.
- i. The department just completed their Strategic Plan.
 - ii. BOE is actively seeking Full Time Teachers as well as substitutes. They have implemented a Ful-Time Substitute into each school and that has been very helpful.
 - iii.
- F. Office of Governor Hogan-** Grayson Middleton, Eastern Shore Outreach Coordinator, provided an update on behalf of the Governor's office.
- i. The 2nd round of Project Restore Grants for 25 million will open on July 7, 2022. There will be 2 levels of money:
 - i. Looking to fill current commercial spaces that have been vacant for at least 6 months. Offer up to 2500 per month for rent for 12 months.
 - ii. If you are a business that charges sales tax, you will get a reimbursement.

IX. New Business

- A. Rural Maryland Grant Fund-** Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Dev. Representative for Md Dept. of Commerce and Susan O'Neill, Executive Director for Upper Shore Regional Council were present to discuss the details, conditions, and timeline for the Rural MD Grant.
- a. What is Upper Shore Regional Council? - There are 5 Regional Councils created by the State of MD. The Upper Shore Regional Council is one of the five councils and represents Queen Anne's Kent and Cecil Counties. They were created for the Economic and Social Development of rural communities. The purpose is to be a mechanism for local governments to maximize funding, planning and human resources to elevate the economy and quality of life of the region. The Council is an Independent Non-Profit with 33-member council made up of representatives from each county, a municipality from each county and a state representative. In addition, the council has a 7-member Executive Board with 2 members from each county and a State Representative. Listed below are the 3 main funding sources:
 - i. MD Department of Commerce
 - ii. Rural MD Property Investment Fund
 - iii. Counties- Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil
- B. Rural MD Grant Fund?** - Funding that comes from the state to the Regional Councils in turn to the counties. Funds are available to boost economic Development activity, stimulate private sector investment and grow jobs in Md's rural regions.
- a. Total Grant Funds to the 5 Regional Councils is 50 million dollars.
 - b. Each Regional Council will receive 10 million dollars.
 - c. The Upper Shore Regional Council will give each county (Queen Anne's, Kent, and Cecil) 2.9 million dollars with a remaining 1.3 to be spent regionally (infrastructure, transportation, and broadband).

- d. Funds for Queen Anne's County will be given to the Economic Development Department for distribution. Funds cannot go directly to businesses.
- e. The timeline for the QAC grant funds and submissions is below:
 - i. June 13th-Application out to selected partners for Letters of Intent
 - ii. June 30th-Applications due to QACETD
 - iii. July 8th-Grant Review and Commissioners Approval Review
 - iv. July 26th-Commissioners Resolution/ Approval Package
 - v. August 12th-QAC Projects submitted to USRC
 - vi. Sept 12th-USRC Application due to MD Dept. of Commerce

X. Old Business:

A. Agritourism Tour- Ms. Lepter shared details pertaining to the Agritourism Tour that took place on June 20th, 2022. There were 25 attendees on the tour that consisted of stops at Cascia Winery, Big Truck Farm Brewery, Wye Branch Manor, Godfrey's Farm, and Patriot Acres Farm Brewery. The tour was very informative, well received by business owners and nice opportunity to see the behind the scenes of these working farms, their history and vision for their future.

- C. Text Amendment Updates-** Heather Tinelli provided a brief update on the status of the current text amendments.
- a. **TACO 2202-** KI Yacht Club-Overnight recreational usage parking received a favorable recommendation and will move on to the County Commissioners.
 - b. **TACO 2203-** Woodlands in the resource protection standard received a favorable recommendation and will move on to the County Commissioners.
 - c. **TACO 2205-** Lisa Schrader- Conditional uses of major extraction in open space area did not receive a favorable recommendation.
 - d. **TACO 2207-** Jamal Properties- Waterfront Village District bonus density provisions in a mixed uses development received a favorable recommendation and will move on to the County Commissioners.

- IX. Adjournment:** On a motion made by Hazen Arnold and seconded by Jim Reilly, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:24 am.