

Business Meeting Minutes for June 23, 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 & 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
Lee Bridgmon, Secretary
Ed Beres, Treasurer
Jesse Parks
Hazen Arnold
Jim Reilly
Larissa Costello
John Anderes
Rob Marsh
Shawna Truitt (Via Zoom)
Jeremy Reynolds (Via Zoom)
Jon Cook (Via Zoom)

Not Present:

Mike Rosendale
Brian DeMoss

Staff Present:

Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic & Tourism Development
Connie Dean, Career Technology Liaison, Economic & Tourism Development
Katie Clendaniel, Marketing & Destination Develop. Specialist, Economic & Tourism Development (via Zoom)
Lisa Gallow, Office Coordinator, Economic & Tourism Development (via Zoom)

Others present:

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager, Town of Centreville
Walt Petrie, Chairman, Petrie Ross Ventures
Victoria Hoffman, Vice President, Mallard Construction Group
Barry Waterman, Real Estate Broker, Coldwell Banker Waterman Realty
Merry Mears, Licensed Real Estate Advisor, NAI Coastal
Adam Tolley, CTE Supervisor, Queen Anne's County Public School

Marci Leach, Director of Program Development, Chesapeake College
Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris (via Zoom)
Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (via Zoom)
Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs, Chesapeake (via Zoom)
Susan O'Neill, Executive Director, Upper Shore Regional Council (via Zoom)
Jody Schulz, Owner, Fisherman's Village/Kent Narrows Boatel (via Zoom)
Nancy LaJoyce, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce (via Zoom)
Tom Rider, Business Service Supervisor, Dept. of Labor, Licensing & Regulation (via Zoom)
Amy Moredock, Director, Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning (via Zoom)
Stephanie Jones, Long Range Senior Planner, Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning (via Zoom)

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes:

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

On a motion made by Mrs. Bacher and seconded by Mr. Marsh, the minutes from the May 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 Commissioner, Jack Wilson did not provide a specific update to the board on behalf of the County Commissioners.

V. Department of Economic and Tourism Update: Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC. All remaining grant awards for the third round of Restaurant funding (\$184,427.57) and the second round of Hotel/Lodging funding (\$83,830.71) have been submitted to finance for payment disbursement. 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. Iteberco, a Baltimore based business who recently completed a \$8.6M remodel at their new 60k SF facility located within the Chesapeake Bay Business Park, is open for business. They anticipate hiring 10-12 new employees over the next year. With Iteberco also came another Baltimore based business, Cream Cruiser. The Town of Sudlersville is looking to expand their Priority Funding Area. Mrs. Tinelli has recently toured local businesses including Chesapeake Burial Vaults in Barclay, MD, Compass Regional Hospice in Centreville, MD, and the Sudlersville Community Laundromat in Sudlersville, MD. The department is working to finalize both the branding project with Choptank Communications, and the new visitors guide with Chesapeake Bay Magazine. Both are anticipated to launch July/August of 2021. The 10K Across the Bay returns to Queen Anne's County on October 31, 2021, hosted by Corrigan Sports. According to the State of Maryland, as of April 2021, Queen Anne's County holds the 3rd lowest unemployment rate at 4.1%. Tourism metrics were provided to all board members for review.

VI. Affordable Housing Roundtable: Victoria Hoffman, Vice President of Mallard Construction Group, Barry Waterman, Real Estate Broker of Coldwell Banker Waterman Realty and Merry Mears, Licensed Real Estate Advisor with NAI Coastal participated in a roundtable discussion with the Economic Development Commission. Each of these individuals has been involved in aspects of affordable housing within and outside of our area.

VII. Old Business:

- A. Comprehensive Plan Update:** The Comprehensive Plan drafting continues. The Land Use Special Topic Committee was held on June 3, 2021.
- B. Subcommittee Update:**
- a. **Permitting:** Mr. Parks and Mr. Marsh provided an update on behalf of the committee. The committee met with Queen Anne's County Planning and Zoning on June 16, 2021. Planning and Zoning has made a lot of improvements over the last 6 months to aid the business owners/developers in Queen Anne's County to include adding additional personnel, changing systems to pay/track permits online, and having the necessary fillable documents available online.
 - b. **Workforce Development:** Mrs. Friday updated the board on behalf of the Workforce Development Committee. There are currently six (6) area restaurants that have signed on to be Youth Apprenticeship sponsors for this program at Chesapeake College. They are hopeful to get 2-3 more restaurants to participate, particularly in the vicinity of Queen Anne's County High School.
 - c. **New Business Development:** Mrs. Bacher has met with the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce to discuss how to identify new businesses, make contact, and provide business resources. Mrs. Bacher will put together a checklist for the next meeting on what should be included in a new business welcome bag.

VIII. New Business:

- A. Introduction: Career Technology Liaison-Connie Dean:** Ms. Dean has joined Queen Anne's County Economic & Tourism Development as the new Career Technology Liaison. Ms. Dean will split her time between Queen Anne's County and Kent County, working to connect the local business community to the area school systems and their students.

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 first in-person mixer of the year was held at Bridges Restaurant on June 14th. They plan to relaunch Success in 60. Upcoming ribbon cuttings include Compass Regional Hospice. The next mixer will be held on August 3rd at the Jetty Dock Bar.
- B. Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Executive Director provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. 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. Continued work on the Comprehensive Plan. The Kent Narrows Travel Guide and Heritage Map should be released to the public this month.
- 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. Currently they are holding biweekly meetings. There are six (6) area restaurants signed on to be Youth Apprenticeship Sponsors for this program. The first marketing video will be filmed this week. Students will return to school 5 days a week in the Fall.
- D. Chesapeake College:** Marci Leach, Director of Program Development updated the board on behalf of Chesapeake College. The College has received a significant amount of grant funding which has allowed

them to hire additional staffing, update skilled trade program space, and produced new informational literature. They are in desperate need of instructional staffing for many of their programs. They will also be hiring a CTE navigator that will be working closely with Ms. Dean.

- E. Upper Shore Regional Council:** Susan O'Neill, Executive Director updated the board on behalf of the Upper Shore Regional Council. The FY22 scope of work and budget has been approved which will include funding for continued work with both Queen Anne's and Kent County Workforce Development. It also approved funding for a second round of agriculture mini grants.
- F. U.S. Senator Ben Cardin's Office:** Kimberly Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative updated the board on behalf of Senator Ben Cardin. A call took place last Friday between Senator Ben Cardin and the DMO's across the State of Maryland. Mrs. Kratovil has emailed information regarding funding available for tourism marketing.
- G. Town of Centreville:** Paige Tilghman, Economic Development Manager updated the board on behalf of the Town of Centreville. The Queen Anne's County YMCA breaks ground next week. The Centreville Farmers Market is open for business, with a drive through every Wednesday and a live event once a month. DrinkMaryland: Centreville held Father's Day Weekend was successful with over 30 vendors spread out along Lawyers Row and Courthouse Green. The Queen Anne's County Historical Society recently launch "Voices & Votes", a Smithsonian Exhibit at the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Center. Final revisions are being made to Centreville's Heritage Tour brochure which will highlight 27 historic sites of interest around the area.

- X. Adjournment:** The June 23, 2021, Economic Development Commission meeting was adjourned at 10:50am.