

Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Board of Directors Meeting (in person & via Zoom)
June 22, 2021

Board Members Participating

Jody Schulz, Chair
Joe Pomerantz, Vice Chair
Pat Worns, Secretary
Victoria Hoffman, Treasurer
Mike Foster (via zoom, technical issues with incoming sound)
Sheryl Jaros
Justin Kiernan
Jason Ruth

Absent with Notice

Jerry Dammeyer
Walt Thompson
Jeff Smith
Jason Tuel
Judy Wink

Commissioner Liaison

Phil Dumenil

Guests:

Linda Friday, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce
Bente Cooney, Plastic Free QAC

Queen Anne's County Staff

Nancy Scozzari, QAC Parks and Recreation
Heather Tinelli, Director, QAC Economic and Tourism Development (arrived 10: 30)

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation commenced at 9:07 a.m. The meeting was conducted in person and via a Zoom video call.

Public Comment

Bente Cooney of Plastic Free QAC stated that the organization aims to raise awareness about the hazards of single use plastics in Queen Anne's County. She discussed the "Reel In and Recycle" program that was recently launched. The program has teamed up with QAC Parks and Recreation to place recycling receptacles (PVC tubes) at key fishing spots throughout the Kent Narrows. The organization is also teaming up with local fishing-related businesses to spread the word about the importance of disposing monofilament properly. The organization also is teaming up with the Marine Trades Association. There is an initiative to discourage the shrink wrapping of boats and to encourage recycling of the plastic shrink wrap after removal.

Linda Friday reported that the Chamber teamed with the County and Chesapeake College to build a youth apprenticeship initiative designed to provide opportunities for local high school students to be placed in local job sites throughout the County. The following restaurants in Kent Narrows will be involved in the program: Bridges, The Jetty, Fisherman's Inn, Fisherman's Crab Deck, and Harris Crab House. Each business will be hosting five students. The Culinary Program at the College is also involved.

Minutes

The board reviewed and ratified the minutes from the meeting of May 22, 2021.

RESOLUTION

Pat Worns made a motion to accept the minutes from the meeting of May 21, 2021. The Board unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Victoria Hoffman reported the following balances from the latest reports: Shore United Bank checking account is \$26,885.00; the KNDF 570 Fund, due from QAC, is \$20,367; the KNDF Amenities Fund, due from QAC, is \$42,500. The remaining balance due to be collected by QAC to add to that fund is \$24,691, committed for future payments; and Chesapeake Charities Fund is \$8,351.00. The application for forgiveness for the second PPP loan will be submitted soon.

Commissioner's Liaison Report

Commissioner Dumenil reported that the Commissioners approved the FY 22 budget that includes an allocation of \$35,000 for the Kent Narrows Development Foundation.

Economic Development and Tourism

Linda Friday and Gigi Windley reported for Heather Tinelli, who was unable to attend. Linda stated that the allocations for the relief fund for restaurants was moving forward. Another grant program for non-profits' relief will open on July 15. Gigi reported that the County travel guide is in progress and that is being published through Chesapeake Bay Media. The Travel and Tourism Advisory Council held their second meeting, working on bylaws. They gave feedback on the branding program which is underway. A two-page editorial is dedicated to the Kent Narrows region. Both Linda and Gigi complemented Heather and her team on their work thus far.

Director's Report

WBOC Delmarva Life Program and Promotion

The KNDF will be moving forward with finding partners for the second Delmarva Life Segment, tentatively scheduled to be filmed in early September and aired by mid-September.

Kent Narrows Guide

5,000 copies will be delivered in early July. They be available at the CHVC and will be distributed to the Chamber, all area marinas, and key businesses in and around Kent Narrows. Out-of-area distribution will include marinas, visitor attractions, regional Chambers of Commerce, and selected tour planners and operators, destination-marketing organizations. An electronic version will be made available online.

Wayfinding Project

The contract was signed for Gable; the team is scheduled to conduct a site visit on June 23.

They will join with the Kent Narrows project team for a land and water tour of the area. . (Scozzari, Chandlee, Clendaniel, Schulz, Windley, Cahoon) The Foundation was notified that it received a grant award of \$19,000 from the Maryland Heritage Trust to help with the Wayfinding Project. The proposed budget with match criteria was distributed, and a special line item for the grant funds will appear in the budget.

Oral History Grant

Gigi Windley is actively seeking stories from those who have lived and worked on the water in Kent Narrows. Those who are willing to give an oral history should contact Gigi as soon as possible.

Special Taxing District

The map amendment for inclusion of the Lippincott property is scheduled to be voted upon on June 22.

Chesapeake Bay Motoring Festival

KNDF set up a welcome booth at the Chesapeake Motoring Festival on June 6. The event was well attended.

Jazz Festival

The KNDF and Board member Jeff Smith worked to arrange a meeting with Mercy Morganfield, Heather Tinelli, Becky Groff and Linda Friday to advise on the festival promotion and logistics. The festival will be able to happen only if a contract for parking on the Jemal Property is secured.

Comp Plan Participation and Community Plan Update

Jody Schulz and Gigi Windley made brief comment at the June Planning Commission meeting expressing concerns that more time was needed to gather relevant information and to validate the existing information in the plan drafts. The Community Profile and other key sections in the existing draft still require input and data from the QAC technical team and the public. The KNDF will need to see the draft with that information and the revised maps before it can adequately do a proper review.

Concern was expressed about using the American Community Survey data and other data that appear in the existing draft because limitations associated with the data sets do not give the reader a real sense of what is occurring. This is true especially in the economic development and the job categories. The sewer and water info and the travel and tourism data have not yet been included.

In addition, the economic impact and other data that the KNDF has submitted also have not yet been included in the draft. The KNDF review team is meeting on a regular basis to review new information as it becomes available.

KNDF contacted the County to determine if the marina survey -- generally used to justify the funding for the dredging projects -- had been updated. It was unavailable, so the Foundation did the update so that it can be folded into the Community Plan.

An extended discussion occurred related to the Plan update. Jody expressed concern as to use of the term "working waterfront." The area has changed significantly since the last plan update, and those changes need to be better reflected in the narrative and in the data presented. Nancy commented that it is often tied to funding opportunities.

Concerns were expressed that comments made during the work sessions were not adequately reflected in the latest draft. A meeting with Wallace and Montgomery is being scheduled to ensure that all information that has been supplied is properly reflected and that the factual inconsistencies that appear throughout the document are updated and corrected.

The board was encouraged to submit comments for the Kent Narrows update and for the other sections as well. Kent Narrows related subject matter appears throughout the various sections of the plan.

Old Business

Lippincott Map Amendment

Gigi reported that the map amendment to redraw the line for the special taxing district was introduced. The public hearing on the amendment will be June 22. If the ordinance is recorded after July, the property tax will still be collected but it will be prorated.

Tax District Reconciliation

Amy Moredock reported via email that the reconciliation is complete and that letters are being prepared and will be sent by to all affected property owners. A new map will be made to include the Lippincott Property if the ordinance is passed.

DBA

The DBA name change is in progress. Both the accountant and the County attorney have been contacted.

Chesapeake Heritage and Visitor Center Boat Ramp and Docking Facility

Funding is in the County budget to complete the first phase of the improvement project in front of the CHVC. No construction dates have been announced.

Other Business

A discussion occurred relating to the area maintenance bids that were obtained by the Foundation last winter. Commissioner Dumenil will assist in reopening the district maintenance discussion with the County.

New Business

County Budget Allocation

The KNDF received a letter from the County confirming the \$35,000 allocation in the FY 22 budget. Those funds will be made available in early July.

Executive Session

Pat Worns made a motion go into a closed session under the Open Meetings Act (General Provisions Article § 305) #1 to discuss employment matters.

RESOLUTION

Pat Worns made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Georgeanna (Gigi) Windley,

Executive Director

Kent Narrows Development Foundation

Certification:

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Minutes that were adopted by the Directors of this Foundation on July 27, 2021.

Patricia P. Worns, Secretary, KNDF