

Kent Narrows Development Foundation
Board of Directors
October 27, 2020
For Board Approval

Board Members in attendance

Jerry Dammeyer
Mike Foster
Victoria Hoffman
Sheryl Jaros
Justin Kiernan
Joe Pomerantz
Jody Schulz
Jeff Smith
Jason Ruth

Attempted to attend (via Zoom)

Pat Worns
Butch Pearson
Judy Wink

Absent with notice

Walt Thompson

Commissioner Liaison

Phil Dumenil

Guests:

Karen Sutter, Sutter Group
Rob Marsh, Wye River Marine/Kent Narrows Marine Boatel

Queen Anne's County Staff

Heather Tinelli, Director, Economic and Tourism Development
Nancy Scozzari, Parks and Recreation

Attempted to attend (via Zoom)

Amy Moredock, Director, Queen Anne's County Planning and Zoning

Call to Order

With a quorum of directors in attendance, the regular meeting of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation commenced at 9:07 a.m.

Public Comment

None

Minutes

The board reviewed the minutes.

RESOLUTION

Sheryl Jaros made a motion to accept the Minutes from the September 29, 2020, regular meeting of the KNDF. The Board members present unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Checking Accounts

The current balance in Shore United Bank was \$54,988 as of 9/30/20.

Kent Narrows 570 Fund

The balance in the KNDF 570 fund was \$201,349 as of 9/30/20.

Kent Narrows Amenities Fund (also known as the In-Lieu KNFILO)

The balance in the Kent Narrows Amenities Fund is \$15,000

This fund was added to the KNDF Balance Sheet this month. The county Finance Department will now include this in their reports to the KNDF.

Chesapeake Charities

The balance is \$9,410.

PPP Loan

The PPP Loan is still listed as a liability. The forgivable loan will eventually be on the books as asset. That will happen once Shore United Bank notifies the Foundation to turn in the documentation of expenditures and the SBA processes the paperwork.

Commissioner Dumenil

Commissioner Dumenil reported that \$430,000 in recovery funds had been received by the County for relief for restaurants. The County is looking for people to fill open spots on Boards and Commissions. Fewer people have applied than in years past.

Economic Development and Tourism

Heather Tinelli reported that all of the \$2.5 million that was received through the Cares Act funds has been distributed through the County's Small Business Recovery Fund. A handout was distributed that showed the distribution of funds by business sector, business size and location. The majority of the businesses that received recovery funds have between one and five employees. Approximately 13% of the funds distributed went to businesses in the Kent Narrows area.

Governor Hogan recently announced the availability of additional funds through a \$250 million recovery package for Marylanders affected by the pandemic. New financial assistance programs are now available to restaurants, independent artists, arts organizations, entertainment venues, and Main Street businesses across the state. As part of that package, the state will distribute \$50 million across each county and Baltimore City based on the number of establishments located in each of the 24 jurisdictions. Queen Anne's County will receive \$443,514 to distribute to eligible restaurant businesses. The Economic Development Office is in the process of crafting the program to release the funds. Relief funds also will be available for maritime-related businesses through the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. That grant program opens on November 4.

There has been a decline in the state sales and use tax collections in hospitality-related sectors within Queen Anne's County. Looking at the period of July 2019 to June 2020, the tax collections reflected the impact of the COVID situation. Queen Anne's County fared better than the other counties in Maryland.

In 2019, \$3.4 million was collected through QAC's hospitality-related businesses. During the same period in 2020, \$2.9 million was collected. That reflects a 15% reduction. The downward trend is expected to continue, mainly as a result of Covid.

The breakdown in Queen Anne's County is as follows:

- 10% for restaurants without beer, wine, and liqueur
- 17% with restaurants and night clubs with beer wine and liqueur
- 27% for hotels and motels with beer wine and liqueur
- 19% for other hotels, motels apartments and cottages

The Tourism division will focus on marketing oysters in November and on a shopping trail in November and December.

A new Tourism Manager will be on board by December 15; the receptionist for the Visitor Center will start on November 15. An additional position will be filled to support Economic Development.

Spring trade and consumer shows that promote Queen Anne's County have been canceled.

Meetings on QAC's Branding Campaign will be scheduled in the future, after the unit has additional staff support.

The formation of the Travel and Tourism Advisory Committee, recently approved by the Commissioners, will continue as time allows.

A new workforce-development program, established through the Workforce Investment Board, will pay 50 % of salary for six month's on-the-job training. Those who are interested should contact the Economic Development Office, which will qualify the business and hand off the applicant to the Workforce Investment Board.

Parks and Recreation

Nancy Scozzari reported that large maps illustrating the trail systems will go up in the following locations: on new kiosks near the Holiday Inn across from the new trail, and another near the Watermen's Monument; and on the existing kiosk next to the Cross Island Trail near the Jemal property. She cannot place the maps yet because the materials needed to cover the maps is hard to locate at this time. The maps will have a QR code that take users to the Parks website, where there will be a link to the bike and pedestrian map. The map will be placed under plexiglass and can be changed easily.

Queen Anne's County has released a Needs Assessment Survey to guide future efforts for Parks & Recreation and Program Open Space. The survey will help to determine future park needs of county residents. The survey is completed via a link to <https://surveymonkey.com?rQACParksandRecreation>. All responses are anonymous. The link will go out to the stakeholder group email list. It is available via the county website. She requested that Board members respond to the survey and share it with others.

A group discussion occurred regarding vehicles illegally parked under the bridge or in county-owned parking lots, and near the boat ramp and public landings.

The lots need to be better maintained and managed. It is difficult to determine which construction trailers are legitimately parked. It is also was difficult to have an abandoned boat trailer removed through routine reporting it to the rangers and the public landings management.

Gigi Windley suggested that the parking lots be optimized, i.e., managed and labeled by optimal seasonal and physical use. The way the different lots are designed, and the places they serve, dictate the main uses. For example, some lots are designed to accommodate cars with boat trailers; some have wider turnaround spaces than others and can accommodate larger vehicles; some are close to walkways that lead directly to local businesses; and some are adjacent to trails and businesses.

Parking restrictions could be changed by season and by situations that support sanctioned special events. Event parking needs to be better defined.

The county leases the lots from SHA and the uses of those lots are stipulated in that agreement. The lease is managed through DPW. The SHA has to approve major changes to the lots, so this complicates matters. DPW manages the lots, yet enforcement power is distributed to many different agencies. It was suggested that DPW work to assign the enforcement parameters to the appropriate county/state agencies, including Parks, among others. Planning and Zoning also must be consulted regarding uses for special events. Gigi read the uses from the state lease agreement, and she reiterated that the issue is complicated. The uses stipulated in the lease agreement are broad. Considerable lead time and effort are required to shepherd changes through the SHA.

Jody Schulz requested that the county call a meeting of the different agencies involved with the parking lots so that the lots can be better managed and parking restrictions can be enforced effectively. Phil Dumenil and Nancy agreed to spearhead the arrangements for those meetings. Phil mentioned the difficulty in getting responses from SHA on a variety of matters.

Jody expressed concerns about a dangerous spot at the trail crossing on Piney Narrows Road near the intersection that turns into the parking lot closest to the Boatel. A stop sign is on one side of the crossing, but not on the other side. It should be fixed immediately. Nancy agreed to contact Shane Moore about fixing it.

Gigi suggested inviting Shane Moore to a KNDF meeting or special workshop to discuss items that involve SHA and other transportation-related projects.

Director's Report

Gigi Windley reported on the following:

STATUS OF PROJECTS IN THE WVC

Boatel and Hyatt Place

Construction has begun on Phase Two of the Boatel and on the Hyatt Place site.

Mears Point/ Safe Harbor Project

Major Site Plan #5-16-08-0008-C

The Planning Commission granted an extension until March 11, 2021.

Bridges and Harris Crab House

Bridges has added more outdoor tables under the expanded gazebo area. Harris Crab House has added heaters to their outdoor space.

PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Wayfinding Project

A request for qualifications was released on October 31. The objective is to identify qualified firms that will be able to help with designing and executing the Kent Narrows Pedestrian Wayfinding project. It is posted on the County website and on the KentNarrowsMd.com website. Responses are due in January.

Special Tax District Reconciliation

Gigi and Victoria spent a considerable amount of time reviewing the tax status of all properties in the district. Tax status and property details were pulled on every property. Several things need to be addressed.

Victoria distributed an updated property list with the tax status, for Board review and comments. That list, along with a list of properties that should be taxed, will be sent with a letter to Amy Moredock and Jonathan Seeman; the appropriate elected and county officials will be copied. The mapping and assessments divisions will also be copied. This is the third time that the KNDF has issue addressed this issue with the County. The KNDF has been assured that the situation will be taken care of and the assessments will appear on the appropriate tax bills.

Jody suggested that the timing of the new assessments be made consistent.

Comprehensive Plan Update

The KN is in the early stages of marking up the current plan and identifying what needs to be deleted and updated. The KNDF will work closely with the Economic Development and Tourism Office to update the demographic and economic data.

CONCERNS

Complaints of disruption under the western span of the Kent Narrows Bridge

A 'flash mob' of cars assembled under the Kent Narrows Bridge on 8/30 and caused significant disruption with reckless driving and loud music. Police responded.

Sunday Traffic is Back

There have been significant backups in the Westbound lanes of Rt 301/50 on Sunday afternoons.

Boat Trailer Removal

James Wood, Commissioner Dumenil, and Todd Mohn worked to have an abandoned boat trailer removed from the boat launch parking lot. It was removed on the Friday before a busy boating weekend. The county was aware of the situation but was trying to officially notify the owner before removing. The trailer – which was partially blocking the exit way and was inconveniencing other boaters -- been there for several months.

PROMOTION

Completed a half-page ad and listing for “Destination, Maryland.” Gigi handled the design; original photos were supplied by KNDF.

The Watermen’s Way Heritage Trail Map has been updated and is at the designer.

A social networking promotional video and graphics were created and distributed to support Shore Update Restaurant Week. A video and still photo shoot have been scheduled for November, weather permitting. The focus will be on Boating and Marinas.

The 4th Annual Chesapeake Bay Motoring Festival

Board member Jeff Smith reported on the 4th Annual Chesapeake Bay Motoring Festival that was held at the Kent Island Yacht Club on October 17-18. On Saturday, local car clubs were featured, as were American Classic and Special Interest cars. On Sunday, award winning motor cars including Grand Classis, Pre-War, Post War, Touring and European and American Sports Cars were featured. Even with the short window of time to plan the event, it was well attended. Many car owners traveled here from out of state. KNDF set up and staffed a welcome table and display on Sunday, October 18. Jeff reported a likelihood that something similar will occur in fall of 2021.

Blues Festival

Jeff reported that the Yacht Club is working with the Blues Foundation in Memphis to produce a Blues Festival this May.

Holiday Basket Tree

The KNDF and the county’s Economic and Tourism Development Office has been working with the QAC Watermen’s Association to build a crab-basket tree at Fishermen’s Inn. Tree will be up December 5 and into 2021. People can buy baskets for \$50. The baskets may be painted and returned for use on the tree. A news release was distributed through the KNDF and QACC Chamber website. QAC TV will host a virtual tree-lighting event on December 5.

Kent Narrows Boat Show

Rob Marsh, of Wye River Marine and Kent Narrows Marine gave a presentation on the proposed Kent Narrows Marine Boat Show planned for April 17 and 18, 2021. This show is designed to be a signature event for the Kent Narrows. The show – and parking -- will be free to the public. The lots on the Jemal Property will be utilized to support the increased need for parking. Vendor space will be made available. The organizers plan to grow the event in subsequent years to include the surrounding businesses and marinas.

Resolution

Jerry Dammeyer made a motion to endorse the idea of the Kent Narrows Boat Show as a signature event for Kent Narrows, and for a letter of endorsement to be sent to the Commissioners. Joe Pomerantz seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Insurance

The second installment was paid on the Business Liability/Officers and Director’s Insurance. The policy is through Avon Dixon and the payment goes to Chubb/ACE.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Capital Improvement and Maintenance Committee

A PowerPoint presentation that illustrates areas in need of public improvements was developed and is being refined. It will be available to show to the PRAB and to the Commissioners. A companion project list was compiled and made available at the beginning of the year. It the goal in to have it updated and distribute to the appropriate parties updated on a monthly basis. Victoria Hoffman stated that the lack of attention to the public lands is noticeable to both residents and visitors and it must be addressed. Kent Narrows is one of the only places in the County where so many businesses are adjacent to publicly managed property.

A lengthy discussion followed regarding the importance of improving county management and maintenance of the publicly owned land surrounding the businesses in Kent Narrows. Phil Dumenil said he would work with the county to bring all appropriate QAC officials to the table to address the matter.

A letter was sent to the Planning Commission/Commissioners and the County Commissioners with the Foundation's recommendation on the Kent Narrows Marine Restaurant Project.

A letter was sent to the Planning Office/Planning Commission and the County Commissioners suggesting that the Kent Narrows Community Plan continue to function as a stand-alone plan that dovetails with the other parts of the QAC Comprehensive Plan update.

Nominating Committee

The county has advertised the open positions on the Board. Three inquiries have been received to date.

Currently there is one Board position being vacated: Butch Pearson will be leaving in December. Pat Worns and Sheryl Jaros have agreed to be nominated for another term. The committee will nominate the candidates under consideration at the November 17 Board Meeting. The terms of service begin January 1, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Sheryl Jaros made a motion to adjourn; Joe Pomerantz seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 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 November 17, 2020.

Patricia Worns, KNDF Secretary