

**An Executive Board closed session for the purpose of discussing new board member nominees and 2021 Executive Board nominees was held on Monday, November 16, 2020 via Zoom Meeting.**

**Business Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2020**

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

The business meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jesse Parks at 9:00 a.m. at the Chesapeake Heritage Visitor Center, 425 Piney Narrows Road, Chester, MD 21619. Due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions, attendees were given the option to attend via Zoom meeting, to be displayed on a monitor in the Barrett Room meeting space. The following Board Members were present and represented a quorum:

Jesse Parks, Chairman  
Kathy Deoudes, Vice Charmain  
Royce Herman, Treasurer  
Rob Marsh  
Brian DeMoss  
Mike Rosendale  
John Anderes  
Ed Beres (via Zoom)  
Lee Bridgmon (via Zoom)  
Jeremy Reynolds (via Zoom)  
Hazen Arnold (via Zoom)  
Heather Bacher (via Zoom)

**Not Present:**

Helen Bennett, Secretary  
Steve Donovan  
Jon Cook

**Staff Present:**

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

**Others present:**

Jack Wilson, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County  
Chris Corchiarino, Commissioner, Queen Anne's County (via Zoom)  
Linda Friday, President, Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce (via Zoom)  
Gigi Windley, Director, Kent Narrows Development Foundation  
Jody Schulz, Owner, Fisherman's Village/Kent Narrows Boatel (via Zoom)  
Kim Kratovil, Eastern Shore Field Representative, U.S. Senator Ben Cardin (via Zoom)  
Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs, Chesapeake College (via Zoom)  
Nancy LaJoice, Sr. Business Development Representative, Maryland Department of Commerce (via Zoom)

Mike Arntz, Community Liaison, Congressman Andy Harris (via Zoom)

Jack Schammel, RBI Mentor, TEDCO (via Zoom)

Renee Sheehy, Senior Public Affairs Manager, Delmarva Power (via Zoom)

Mike Clark, Executive Director, Queen Anne's County Housing & Family Services (via Zoom)

Ann VanBenschoten, Director, Queen Anne's County Affordable & Workforce Housing (via Zoom)

Anita Morrison, Partner, Partners for Economic Solutions (via Zoom)

Jeremy Rose (via Zoom)

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

On a motion made by Mr. Anderes and seconded by Mr. Herman, the November meeting agenda was approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

On a motion made by Mrs. Deoudes, and seconded by Mr. Anderes, the minutes from the October meeting were approved by a unanimous vote of all members present.

**III. Treasurers Report:** Mr. Herman reported that account managed by Chesapeake Charities has a current balance of \$3865.85. There has been no recent activity.

**IV. Commissioners Report:** Queen Anne's County Commissioner, Jack Wilson updated the board on behalf of the County Commissioners. The Travis Pastrana project that was planned for Sudlersville has decided to take their plans and investors elsewhere due to the threat of ongoing and long-term lawsuits. Queen Anne's County plans to follow Governor Larry Hogan's recent mandates to slow the spread of COVID-19. The Commissioners will not create any further mandates for Queen Anne's County beyond what the Governor has set for the State of Maryland. There has been a request from the owner of UnderArmor to provide information on locations for potential development/redevelopment on the Eastern Shore.

**V. Department of Economic and Tourism Update:** Heather Tinelli, Director of Economic & Tourism Development provided a department update for the EDC. Recently Mrs. Tinelli toured the Forward Grow Cannabis Facility that is under construction at the Chesapeake Bay Business Park. This facility will not be a grow facility, only production of goods. Both Talbot County and the Maryland Association of Counties hosted virtual Economic Symposiums. Queen Anne's County has the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest unemployment rate in Maryland. The Economic overview that Mrs. Tinelli was going to provide to at the Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce Breakfast on Friday, November 20<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to COVID-19. BOE Marine located in Chester is looking to expand their facility. Two Economic Development Incentive Fund Conditional Loan applications were brought before the Commissioners for approval at their October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, Shine Like Stars Daycare and Chesapeake Environmental Labs. Shine Like Stars Daycare was denied their request of \$50K in funding. Chesapeake Environmental Labs was approved for \$50K which will aide in the purchase of new equipment and create two new jobs. There are currently two (2) Commercial Property Tax Credits pending for the Kent Narrows Boatel, and the Hyatt Place. At the Tuesday, November 24<sup>th</sup> Commissioners Meeting there will be a proclamation for Small Business Saturday, which is November 28<sup>th</sup>. The Department will be introducing the "Shore Good Gifts" Shopping Trail to promote shopping for new gifts along with shopping small and supporting local in Queen Anne's County this holiday. They will also be introducing a "New to You" shopping trail to promote antique, consignment and thrift shops in the coming weeks. Mrs. Tinelli has received about half of the documentation and receipts from the companies who were awarded funding through the Small Business Assistance & Recovery Fund. The new Marketing & Destination Specialist, Katie, will be starting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Katie is currently the Main Street Executive Director in Cambridge. Governor Larry Hogan has announced an additional \$250M in funding through the

Maryland Strong: Economic Recovery Initiative. \$50M that has been allocated for Restaurants, Queen Anne's County received \$443K. All Restaurant Relief Grant applications will be reviewed by the grant review committee at one time. The program will close on November 27, 2020. Currently there are 27 applicants. Current development projects include the K-Mart property backfill, an inquiry for a 10-15-acre parcel for commercial use, and Kent Island Crossing in Chester in conceptual planning. The University of Maryland Medical System has announced that they will be bringing an Urgent Care facility to Queen Anne's County. They are currently looking for locations in the Chester area. Of the additional funding from Governor Hogan's Maryland Strong: Economic Recovery Initiative, he has allocated Tourism dollars to each County that has a DMO. Queen Anne's County received just over \$22k that needs to be utilized by February 2021 on Hometown Tourism marketing efforts.

**VI. Old Business:**

- A. Affordable Housing Subcommittee:** Mike Clark and Ann VanBenschoten, of Queen Anne's County Housing & Family Services presented to the EDC via Zoom with information on current affordable and workforce housing programs available in the County. Anita Morrison of Partners of Economic Solutions provided an update on the Queen Anne's County Housing Study which evaluates what and where the needs are within the County, and its findings. The next step from Partners in Economic Solutions is to take the collected data and make recommendations for housing strategies and solutions. The EDC would like to work in conjunction with Queen Anne's County Housing & Family services so that efforts are not duplicated.
- B. Comprehensive Plan Update:** The EDC, EDIF and EDC Liaisons all received a survey through Survey Monkey to collect feedback on how the vision, strategies and goals are currently written in the 2010 Comprehensive Plan pertaining to Economic & Tourism Development. All wording in the survey was pulled directly from the current plan. 20 responses have been collected. The goal is to have a supplemental EDC meeting to specifically discuss the feedback received.
- C. Restaurant Recovery Grant Status:** Governor Larry Hogan has announced an additional \$250M in funding through the Maryland Strong: Economic Recovery Initiative. \$50M that has been allocated for Restaurants, Queen Anne's County received \$443K. All Restaurant Relief Grant applications will be reviewed by the grant review committee at one time. The program will close on November 27, 2020, all funds need to be disbursed by December 31, 2020. Currently there are 27 applicants.

**VII. New Business:**

- A. Nominating Committee-Presentation of Board Nominations:** The Queen Anne's County Commissioners office recently published a public notice looking for new members to serve on Boards and Commissions. The Nominating Committee, which consists of the Executive Board members, Jesse Parks, Kathy Deoudes, Helen Bennett and Royce Herman, met on Monday, November 16, 2020 to review the applications submitted for the EDC. As of January 2021, the EDC will have three (3) available seats. Currently there have been two (2) applications submitted for consideration. Of those applications, the Executive Board did not feel either application should be brought before the EDC for discussion and recommendation. They would like to make a recommendation to the County Commissioners to re-open the application process. The EDC is looking for representation from the Small Business, Hospitality, Insurance and Medical industries.

**Action on New Executive Board Members for 2021:** On a recommendation from the Executive Board, Kathy Deoudes has been nominated for a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) three (3) year term on the EDC.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Anderes, the board unanimously approved Mrs. Deoudes for a second (2<sup>nd</sup>) term.

On a recommendation from the Executive Board, the following members have been nominated to fill the Executive Board positions in 2021. Kathy Deoudes, Chairman; Heather Bacher, Vice Chairman; Ed Beres, Treasurer and Lee Bridgmon, Secretary.

On a motion made by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Rosendale, the board unanimously approved the recommendation for the new Executive Board beginning January 2021.

- B. **Review & Approval of 2021 Meeting Schedule:** This agenda item was not discussed during the November 18, 2020 Economic Development Commission Meeting.
- C. **Legislative Agenda:** This agenda item was not discussed during the November 18, 2020 Economic Development Commission Meeting

**VIII. Liaison Reports:**

- A. **Queen Anne's County Chamber of Commerce:** Linda Friday, Chamber President, provided an update on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce. The November 19<sup>th</sup> Economic Overview has been postponed to 2021. The 2021 directory will be going to print after Thanksgiving. New board members start in January. The Chamber will be hosting a Holiday Happy Hour, details to come.
- B. **Kent Narrows Development Foundation:** Gigi Windley, Director, provided an update on behalf of the Kent Narrows Development Foundation. The 120 room Hyatt Place Hotel & Conference Center construction is currently under way. Phase 2 of the Kent Narrows Boatel is also under construction. Restaurant space in Phase 2 has been delayed due to the cost of materials. The start of construction on the restaurant space is planned for Summer 2021. The Kent Island Yacht Club is planning a Blues Festival for May 2021. The Queen Anne's Watermen's Crab Basket Christmas Tree located at the corner of Wells Cove Rd. and Main Street will be lit on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Fisherman's Crab Deck and Seafood Market, along with Red Eye's Dock Bar and Big Owls Tiki Bar have closed for the season. An RFI has been released for a Pedestrian Way Finding project in the Kent Narrows. Kent Narrows Development Foundation is working in conjunction with the County on this project.
- C. **Chesapeake College:** Dave Harper, VP of Workforce & Academic Programs provided an update on behalf of Chesapeake College. The College continues to teach face-to-face courses in critical areas, including Health Professions & Skilled Trades. Mr. Harper conferred yesterday with Dr. Ciotola, of the Queen Anne's County Health Department, to ensure best practices. Other college courses continue online with expanded tutoring and available student supports services.
- D. **Maryland Department of Commerce:** Nancy Lajoice, Senior Business Development Representative provided an update on behalf of the Maryland Department of Commerce. They are working to get the remaining Small Business Emergency Relief Grant applications processed. If your business applied and didn't receive funding before, your application may be processing now.

- IX. **Adjournment:** On a motion made by Mr. Herman, and seconded by Mr. Anderes, the board unanimously approved the adjournment of the meeting at 10:53am.