



St. Mary's County Economic Development Commission
April 19, 2017, 6:00 p.m., Chesapeake Building

Approved – August 16, 2017

Attendees: Richard Braam, Wynne Briscoe, Dan Carney, Tracy Harris, Paul Junge, Tom Sanders, Elizabeth Torgerson

Staff: Chris Kaselemis, Robin Finnacom, Dana DiGregorio, Adam Mawyer, Katherine Stormont

Absent: Laura Clarke, Phil Dorsey, Phil Langley, Jamie Raley, Carlos Bravo, Tom Watts, Michael Schroder

Call to Order: Richard Braam called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes:

1. Minutes of the February 15, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Dan Carney made a motion to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Wynne Briscoe and passed unanimously.

ACTION: The minutes of the February 15, 2017 were approved.

Announcements & Discussion:

1. The Commission Members welcomed new member Elizabeth Torgerson. Ms. Torgerson gave a brief background on herself.
2. Election of Officers: Robin Finnacom noted at the last meeting that it was time for the election of new officers to serve the Economic Development Commission. There were three nominations, Richard Braam for Chair, Wynne Briscoe for Vice Chair, and Tracy Harris for Secretary. No other nominations were noted. A motion to approve the nominated members was made by Tom Sanders, The motion was seconded by Dan Carney and passed unanimously.
ACTION: The officers for 2017 Economic Development Commission were nominated and approved.
3. Chris Kaselemis updated the commission members on new staff member Sue Veith, Environmental / Conservation Planner. Ms. Vieth was brought to Economic Development through Commissioners of St. Mary's County approved reorganization. She is a welcome addition to our Agriculture & Seafood Division with a background in regulations, site plans, environmental needs and restrictions.
4. Chris Kaselemis updated the commission on the status of the Strategic Plan and the Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan. Both the Strategic Plan and the Tourism & Hospitality Master Plan were approved by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the department is now going to move forward with the implementation of the recommendations. Chris Kaselemis and Robin Finnacom answered questions and comments posed by the commission members.

5. Chris Kaselemis updated the commission on the status of the Tax Incentives Ordinance. The Ordinance was adopted by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the department is working on getting this information out to all local businesses. Chris Kaselemis and Robin Finnacom answered questions and comments posed by the commission members.
6. Chris Kaselemis updated the commission members on the Streamlining of the Development Review Process. Zucker Systems, the consultant hired to complete the study has submitted a draft report of recommendations to streamline the process. This report is based on a survey, several focus groups, and interviews with staff, public and officials to gather information on the process. A full completed report is expected to be delivered by mid summer.
7. The County received a grant through The Economic Development Corporation (TEDCO) of \$2 million for a Business Incubator within St. Mary's County. The RFP (Request for Purchase) for the Business Incubator has been submitted to the County Procurement office to generate bids to build out and run the incubator for 3 years.
8. The Right-to-Farm Ordinance will go to a public hearing with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County on Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
9. Robin Finnacom spoke to the commission members about the Crab Pot Pitch Contest that took place on April 13, 2017. This event was sponsored by SMIT as well as Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's Counties giving local inventors an opportunity and audience to "pitch" their ideas to the public. This was a preliminary event with 21 contestants who participated in the speed rounds, of the 21 contestants 5 were selected to move on to the regional finals which will be held May 11, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the PAX River Naval Air Museum. The finals will require the 5 contestants to pitch their technology and face a panel of judges asking relevant questions to their technology and presentation. The first place winner will receive \$5000 and a bushel of crabs, the second place runner up will receive \$1000.
10. Chris Kaselemis posed a new meeting schedule to the commission members. Mr. Kaselemis posed that the Economic Development Commission request to meet quarterly (every 3 months) instead of monthly with special meeting or work sessions in between as necessary. This request will be presented to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for approval and will begin after approval.
ACTION: The Economic Development Commission approve a request be submitted to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County for the Economic Development Commission to meet quarterly (every 3 months) with intermittent meetings or work sessions as necessary.

Adjournment:

1. Tracy Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Wynne Briscoe and approved unanimously.

Minutes taken by Dana DiGregorio, Sr. Administrative Coordinator, DED