

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting: September 19, 2023

Minutes

- Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was present with Melissa Burns-Carter, Karen Pica, Dan Corder, Robert Bullard, Drew Basye in attendance.
- Agenda Review – shifted agenda with guest speaker going first.
- Virginia Tourism Commission (VTC) Presentation: Laura Messer
 - Provided a presentation that informed the group of economic impacts to Northumberland County from 2017 – 2020.
 - Informed the commission of the services available from the VTC.
- Review of meeting notes from July 18, 2023, meeting – Pica noted thanks for making changes
- Building Permits Comparison Report: July-August 2023
 - Information shared.
 - Mr. Corder asked a few questions about the numbers in the report to understand if the total cost were realized or actual.
- Updates:
 - District 1 Commissioner –
 - Dan introduced himself and provided his background.
 - He shared information from some potential investors as they are planning to put in a permit request to Board of Supervisors. Dan asked for clarification on how the EDC works with BOS and how recommendations/decisions are made or enacted.
 - Obier's is still moving forward on construction in Callao. The store will provide fresh meats and seafood.
 - A doctor in Callao established an office in Callao and will provide conventional medical care and herbal care.
 - District 3 Commissioner –
 - Melissa shared info about ongoing work related to workforce housing and senior housing.
 - Discussing potential senior housing opportunity with Dan.
 - Identified the need for work force housing under \$250,000 and that current loan programs do not match up with borrower qualification.
 - Met with Albert Pollard to discuss the six (6) Airbnb facilities he has.
 - District 4 Commissioner –

- Karen shared that the Dollar General building in Wicomico Church is framed in.
 - 250-acre farm parcel just outside of Kilmarnock is sold.
 - A discussion about the many Dollar General and like stores in the County. Dan provided to the discussion and said there were previous attempts to bring in additional stores like Trader Joes, but there was no interest from them.
 - Executive Director –
 - Deputy County Administrator –
 - All Points Broadband is scheduling their “first lighting” ceremony at the end of September in Lewisetta.
 - BEAD program will be available to augment any additional infrastructure support required for the County.
- ARPA Tourism Funds
 - Executive Director (ED) shared updates on ARPA funds. Karen asked for chart to be updated to include new finish/expected finish dates for projects, remaining balances in funds, and expiration date of funds.
 - ED discussed the ARPA Billboard advertising plan.
 - Glebe Point Kayak Launch Completed
 - All kayak facilities under review to ensure ADA compliancy.
- VA 250 Tourism Marketing – nothing new to share
- Callao Hometown Community Association – Deputy County Administrator provided updates:
 - Crab Crawl/ 5K Run/Walk September 23rd
 - Annual Fire Department Meeting Oct 25th
 - Halloween Celebration Oct 28th
 - Finalizing paperwork for transfer of Primis Bank parking lot to the park.
- Discuss Citizens Input – Commissioners expressed appreciation for citizen input, all input was reviewed and feedback on transparency to be implemented as well as other feedback.
- EDC Economic Development Plan –
 - ED shared plan for updating the development plan. Commissioners asked for clarification on which plan (one ending in 2018 or 2021). Karen again asked for the plan to be posted to the EDC site (a request made in August) so it can be transparent for County residents.
 - Schedule to update plan is.
 - Oct 2023 – Feb 2024 – Analysis
 - Mar 2024 – April 2024 – Bottom-Up Review
 - May 2024 – Draft Plan (tentative)

- Karen shared a document that she created from the strategic plan and the review of the NNPC plan.
- Discussion with Commissioners and staff on the strengths, weaknesses, and needed actions have changed dramatically. Commissioners asked what action items are completed vs which are still open to identify a starting point for the update. Other topics of discussion were frequency of meeting to complete the plan on schedule and if working sessions will be required.
- In addition to the plan, Commissioners agreed to create 6-, 12-, and 18-month goals so there are actions underway and completed to address challenges and community input on need for more economic development.

- New Business
 - Posting of meeting agenda and EDC Plan on EDC website for transparency.
 - Election of officers for EDC.
 - Research for McDonalds or similar fast-food franchise in Northumberland County.

- Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM