

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Meeting: October 17, 2023

Minutes

- The meeting convened at 6:00 PM
- Roll Call - In attendance were Drew Basye, Karen Pica, Melissa Carter, and Dan Corder
- Agenda Review
 - The agenda was reviewed and motion to make changes were recommended to include election of officers. (approved)
- Election of Officers
 - The elections were conducted, and the results are as follows:
 - Chairman - Dr. Karen Pica
 - Vice-Chairman - Melissa Bunns-Carter
 - Secretary - Dan Corder
- Review of meeting notes from September 19, 2023
 - Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.
- Building Permits Comparison Report: September 2023
 - Comparison report reviewed and the commission continues to research data to determine any trends that may be occurring.
- Updates:
 - District 1 Commissioner – Mr. Corder introducing himself to his district and is receiving positive feedback regarding how the County works with small businesses.
 - District 3 Commissioner around Workforce and Workforce Housing.
 - District 4 Commissioner – Dr. Pica attended the FedChair meeting in Lancaster. Focus on the conversation centered on work force workforce housing and economic conditions.
 - Assistant County Administrator –
 - All Points broadband is beginning to turn services on for county customers. Encouraged citizens to sign up for service so All Points survey can be updated. The web site is APBFiber.com. Mr. Basye provided a summary of the differences between APB and Breezeline services.

- Working on mailers to send out to known short-term rental homes to get them to register. Currently there are at least 150 homes that fall into this category.
- ARPA Tourism Funds

EDC discussed the status of ARPA Tourism funds and the need to get funded projects implemented before funds expire. To date, \$14,500 of the \$70,000 has been spent. The EDC members support continuing with the current projects provided they can be completed before funds expire. December is the deadline for any proposed changes. A motion was passed for Dr. Pica to discuss appropriations versus obligation with Ms. Lisa Hull.
- VA 250 Tourism Marketing

Dr. Pica asked for additional information, whether the County has a role in the NNK 250.
- Callao Hometown Community Association
 - Upcoming events -
 - Oct 25th Annual Meeting, 7PM Callao Fire Department
 - Oct 28th Halloween Community Event
 - Nov 4th Brunswick Stew Fundraiser at Callao Fire Department
 - Dec 3rd Christmas in Callao and planning is ongoing.
- EDC Economic Development Plan

EDC will conduct their strategic planning working session on November 15th. The meeting will be held at River Celebration Center located at 226 Village Green Drive, Callao VA 22435. The working session will be from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM followed by the regular Economic Development monthly meeting.
- New Business
 - a. The EDC asked for County input on the potential for conducting "challenges" to accomplish projects. This can potentially be used for ARPA tourism activities.
 - b. Discussed Executive Director reaching out to fast-food chain owners in Kilmarnock to see how Northumberland County can attract this type of business.
 - c. Mr. Corder asked about revolving funds/grants for businesses and the status of those funds. Dr. Pica requested Mr. Bullard provide information on this program.
- Adjournment – A motion to adjourn the meeting was approved and the meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.