



Economic & Tourism Development Commission

June 11, 2025

Commission Members Present: Tiffany Scott, Creigh Rahenkamp, Judy Gifford, Joanne Rich, David Bowman, and Bob Jacob.

Commission Members Absent: Judy Crow.

Also in Attendance: Jamie Williams, Director, Katie Abbott, Economic Development Manager, and Rose Osborn, Administrative Specialist, Economic and Tourism Development; and Shelley Heller, County Administrator.

At 3:00 p.m., Ms. Williams called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting. On a motion by Mr. Jacob, seconded by Mr. Bowman, the minutes of the May 14, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams welcomed Tiffany Scott, Creigh Rahenkamp, and Joanne Rich. Ms. Williams asked the new members and existing members to introduce themselves and share their background, experience, and interest in serving on the Economic and Tourism Development Commission.

Scott Boone, Director, Information Technology, gave an update on the fiber infrastructure in Kent County.

Ms. Williams shared updates on several Economic and Tourism Development projects, activities, and upcoming events.

Ms. Williams shared that the top priority identified by the Economic and Tourism Development Commission (ETDC) members was affordability and the availability of housing. Ms. Williams advised that the ETDC would need to dive deeper into ways that the County could have an impact on housing, such as the Sprinkler Tax credit on new home construction, which was extended to 2027. Recommendations could be presented to the County Commissioners for consideration. A housing work group consisting of Mr. Jacob, Mr. Rahenkamp, and Ms. Rich was established to begin the conversations.

Another priority identified was the overall economic health of the County, to include jobs, population, infrastructure, education, etc. A data working group consisting of Ms. Gifford, Ms. Crow, and Ms. Scott was established to identify what data should be tracked and report back to Ms. Williams for sources of the data points identified.

The third priority identified was Tourism Marketing. A working group consisting of representatives from the Downtown Chestertown Association, the Greater Rock Hall Business Association, ETD staff, and Ms. Crow is already established and will continue their discussions.

Orientation packets were given to all ETDC members. Each member was encouraged to sign up for the Economic Development and Tourism Development monthly newsletters. Ms. Williams reviewed the packet, which included the ETDC Bylaws, Strategic Plan, ETDC Member Roster, an orientation document with quick links to locate various pertinent information, an ETD Department organizational chart, and a copy of the 2025 Visitor's Guide.

Ms. Williams requested that anyone interested in serving as Chair or Vice Chair contact her by July 2, 2025, for staff to prepare a ballot if necessary for the July 9, 2025, meeting.

Ms. Williams advised that Sonny Huntzinger, Executive Director, Chestertown Main Street, will be at the July meeting for introductions and an overview of the Downtown Chestertown Master Plan recently completed. Dr. Mary McComas, Superintendent, Kent County Public Schools, is scheduled to attend the August meeting for introductions and updates.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Jacob, seconded by Ms. Gifford, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m. The Commission will reconvene on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director