



Economic & Tourism Development Commission

July 9, 2025

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

Commission Members Absent: Tiffany Scott.

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 June 11, 2025, meeting. On a motion by Ms. Rich, seconded by Mr. Rahenkamp, the minutes of the June 11, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

Ms. Williams thanked Mr. Jacob, Ms. Rich, and Ms. Gifford for completing the Open Meetings Act training and requested a copy of Ms. Gifford's certificate for the County files.

Ms. Williams requested Ms. Crow introduce herself and share a little background, experience, and interest in serving on the Economic and Tourism Development Commission.

Ms. Williams introduced Sonny Huntzinger, Executive Director, Main Street Chestertown and shared some of Ms. Huntzinger's recent experience and expertise. Mr. Paul Heckles, Board Member, Main Street Chestertown was also present to review the Phase I Master Plan for Downtown Chestertown.

Mr. Rahenkamp asked how we can help, and Mr. Heckles and Ms. Huntzinger responded with advice, grant writing assistance, and letters of support.

Ms. Williams shared that Ms. Abbott and Sandy Nordhoff, IT Department, have been working on the development of the County's new website. The ETD staff have been working with Ms. Abbott to transfer and update the business directory over the past week or so and that work will continue through the end of the month. The business directory feeds the Tourism pages, Family Resources, and the Business Directory. Once the website is live, we will be requesting that all businesses and organizations check their listing and provide updates as needed. Live date is expected the end of July, and updates are expected to go on from there. The initial presentation to the County Commissioners is expected to be on July 22, 2025. As soon as the date is confirmed, Ms. Williams will advise the Commission.

FY2026 Marketing for Economic Development and Tourism is in full swing, now that the budget has been adopted, we are processing insertion orders, contracts, purchase orders, etc.

Ms. Williams shared that the Summer 2025 Eastern Shore Business Sentiment Survey is open and requested commission members to complete it for their business and share with other businesses to get the best results for Kent County.

SBDC Small Business Webinar Series and Community Office Hours information was shared.

The CBS segments will air on WCBS New York, KYW Philadelphia, WUSA DC.

Ms. Crow motioned, and Mr. Jacob seconded, to approve Ms. Rich as the Chair and Ms. Gifford as the Vice-Chair of the Commission. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Williams advised that Dr. Mary McComas, Superintendent, Kent County Public Schools, is scheduled to attend the August meeting for introductions and updates.

Mr. Rahenkamp shared that the Housing Subcommittee held its first meeting and their initial assessment is that there is limited land available for residential development where there is sewer service and appropriate zoning.

Dan Divilio shared exciting news that Principal Hemstetter was awarded High School Principal of the Year for the State of Maryland. Mr. Divilio shared that they are moving forward with the new middle school project and are currently in the design phase. The KCPS Free App for accessing calendars, news, school menus, etc.

Ms. Gifford mentioned that Lockbriar Farm was added to the ice cream trail.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Crow, seconded by Mr. Jacob, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:26 p.m. The Commission will meet again on Wednesday, August 20, 2025, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director