



Economic & Tourism Development Commission

December 10, 2025

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

Also in Attendance: Katie Abbott, Economic Development Manager, Shalyn Boulden, Tourism Manager, Rose Osborn, Administrative Specialist, Economic and Tourism Development.

At 3:00 p.m., Mr. Jacob called the meeting to order.

Mr. Jacob requested a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2025, meeting. On a motion by Mr. Bowman, seconded by Ms. Crow, the minutes of the November 12, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

Mr. Jacob reported that the Housing Subcommittee is developing additional questions for Planning, Housing, and Zoning to discuss upon the return of Carla Gerber, Director, with the goal of better understanding potential opportunities to encourage additional housing in Kent County.

Ms. Crow reported that the Tourism Subcommittee hosted the Tourism Summit on December 2, 2026, at the Inn at Huntingfield Creek. The event drew 42 participants, representing 18 businesses and other partner organizations from across the County. Following a presentation by Sandy Dubay of PPR Strategies, who highlighted her travel experiences and the value of cross-referrals among businesses, local restaurants provided food for attendees. The Summit's goal was to connect those involved in tourism and spark collaboration to attract more visitors to Kent County.

Mr. Bowman shared that the Nominating Subcommittee has received three new interest forms and two more are expected. The Subcommittee will convene in January or February to review the applications and bring feedback to the ETDC.

Sara Rich, President and CEO of Choptank Community Health Systems (CCHS) shared the services they provide to the Kent County community. Ms. Rich shared that CCHS is not required but chooses to be a Joint Commission Accredited Healthcare Organization. They have been on the Eastern Shore since 1980 and in Kent County since 2022. They provide community outreach programs to the public schools and migrant workers, in addition to having three mobile health units. They have served 34,000 patients annually in Kent County of all ages and operate on a sliding pay scale. CCHS currently partners with the University of Maryland, Kent County Public Schools, and the Chestertown Police Department.

Ms. Abbott shared information on the Voices for Manufacturing Webinar, the American Express Shop Small Grants, and the Beacon Sentiment Winter Survey.

Commission members recommended rescheduling Ms. Gerber's presentation from the January meeting to February to allow the Housing Subcommittee and other Commission members additional time to prepare more detailed questions for review. Mr. Rahenkamp asked about the status of the \$30,000 housing study grant and emphasized the importance of representation from the ETDC Housing Subcommittee.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Bramble, seconded by Mr. Rahenkamp, and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 3:47 p.m. The Commission will meet again on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director