



Economic & Tourism Development Commission

January 14, 2026

Commission Members Present: Bob Jacob, David Bowman, and Joanne Rich.

Commission Members Absent: Judy Crow, Cathy Bramble, and Creigh Rahenkamp

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

At 3:00 p.m., Ms. Rich called the meeting to order.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the approval of the minutes of the December 10, 2025, meeting was tabled until the February 11, 2026, meeting.

Mr. Jacob advised that there is no report at this time for the Housing Subcommittee, and they plan to meet at the end of the month.

Ms. Williams advised that there is no report at this time for the Tourism Subcommittee and that they plan to meet on January 28, 2026.

Mr. Bowman shared that the Nominating Subcommittee interviewed three candidates. Since writing the Subcommittee's recommendation, one candidate has expressed their unavailability through June 2026. Considering this information and due to the lack of a quorum, the members in attendance agreed to proceed with a recommendation to the County Commissioners to appoint the top choice to fill the unexpired term of Tiffany Scott.

Ms. Williams shared that the Kent MD 250 Committee is a shared responsibility with Chestertown Main Street and the Economic and Tourism Development Department that meets monthly to share and collaborate on ideas and events to celebrate America's 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The County's kickoff event will be taking place on the Courthouse lawn with the reading of the Declaration of Independence and a County Resolution, and then moving to Kent Cultural Alliance for the reenactment of toasts from the County's 50th celebration. Ms. Williams advised that she would share the links to the social media platforms and the website that have been set up for the Kent MD 250 celebrations.

Ms. Williams shared that Ms. Abbott and Kelly Reed, Deputy Executive Director, Kent County Chamber of Commerce, will be partnering to visit businesses together and are in the process of creating a calendar to include several visits per week.

Ms. Boulden shared that she and Ms. Osborn are currently assisting the planning committee for the new spring festival in Rock Hall, Wings of Spring Osprey Festival.

Ms. Osborn shared that the Museums of Kent's first Trivia Night will take place on February 18, 2026, at noon at the Amy Lynn Ferris Center. She also shared that the Pop-up Museum is moving forward with a scheduled date of February 6, 2026, at Kent County Middle School.

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Strategic Plan Review was tabled until the February meeting.

Although a quorum was not present, those in attendance reached consensus to proceed with sending a letter of support due to the time constraints for submitting comments on the proposed Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) that would allow Cannabis Processing in the Commercial District.

Discussion to consider the Forest Conservation Non-Conforming Provisions with the Enterprise Zone has been tabled until the Planning, Housing, and Zoning Department has weighed in on the matter.

It was requested that Cindy Genther be invited to the March meeting to present the annual 2025 Real Estate Review.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. The Commission will meet again on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Hearing Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie L. Williams, CEcD
Director