

Northumberland County Economic Development Commission

Meeting: October 15, 2024

6-8 pm

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM
2. Roll Call. In attendance were Commissioners: Dr. Karen Pica, Dan Corder, and Maurice Johnson; Staff: Drew Basye and Robert Bullard. Mr. Al Ross with Habitat was in attendance.
3. Agenda Review. The agenda was reviewed and approved. Mr. Corder motioned for approval and Mr. Johnson second.
4. Review of Meeting Notes: The minutes for the EDC's September 2024 meeting were reviewed by the commissioners. Mr. Corder motioned for approval, Mr. Johnson second the motion and the Commissioners approved the minutes.
5. Commissioners' Corner
 - a. Mr. Corder – District 1 – No recent updates.
 - b. Ms. Stuart – District 2 – Jim Michelle provided a special edition copy of the Rappahannock record that talks about Heritage Ways of Life in the County. Thought it would be interesting to hold onto to potentially align with the spring expo. Spoke with Dean Sumner about helping with the AJGA tournament he will be glad to help.
 - c. Ms. Carter – District 3 – No recent updates to District 3
 - d. Dr. Pica – District 4 –
 - i. Wicomico Church is getting a mulching facility. Not sure if it is retail or for businesses.
 - e. Mr. Johnson – District 5 – No recent updates to District 5.
6. Executive Director Items
 - Howland Church and Civil War Trails meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 3, 2024
 - Career Exposition Notice posted on County and EDC. Copies provided to Northumberland County Library and Northumberland County DSS
 - Kayak Brochures distributed in various business in Kilmarnock and Montross (plan to distribute again in Feb – Mar 2025).
 - November Discovery – Currently planned to revisit oyster business.
 - Meeting on Regional Resilience Equity Workgroup (RREW).
 - An outgrowth of the 2019 – 2020 RAFT (Resilience Action Feasibility Tool) process.

- Meeting to determine career needs within the region and how to create programs to support the demand.
- Lisa Hull asked if we had any programs we were working on and if there was interest in our career expo.
 - Giles Scott and Jackie Davis potential resources.
- A draft grant program is underway which may help our Spring EXPO. The grant application will be open until November 15th and is for Planning Phase activities. The second window is the Implementation Phase and is scheduled for some time in the Spring. Coordinate through Lisa Hull.

7. County Administrator Corner

- New businesses coming in at Coan Stage
- Bids for the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) grant to remove boats will be released 16 Oct. This is for ADVs at Lodge Creek, Bridge Creek, and Great Wicomico River

8. Current Projects

- Maurice – discussed grant opportunity administered through VEDP. Looking for inventory of real estate properties for development of businesses. Initial process requires identification of real estate and have property identified in Virginia Scan. The Virginia Business Ready Sites Program (VBRSP) is preparing to launch its next round of grants. The program guidelines and pre-application instructions for FY25 will go live on VEDP’s website next week.
- Expo
 1. Set for November 2, 2024.
 2. Commissioners take a copy and place in post office.
 3. EXEC DIR place in post office
 4. County admin place in county office
 5. Newspaper posted.
 6. Schools will post bulletins for parents.
- Indian Creek, Tiffany, Lilian Lumber, Abilities Abound, Dollar Tree
- Set up November 1 setup time to be determined.
- Look into signage for parking to direct attendees – Ms. Stuart may have signs with arrows.
- Have a survey, feedback.

9. New Business

10. Citizen Engagement

- Mr. Al Ross obtained a certificate of occupancy for their Build 22 project. They have applied for a community impact grant with VHA to study how to transition from single to multiple house builds. Site for Build 23, in Weems, is paid for.
- Indian Creek has 4 H1B Visa employees working with the superintendent and it has been a positive experience. Looking to expand that within their Country Club.

11. Adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Corder and Ms. Carter second the motion. The adjournment was approved, and the meeting ended at 6:47 PM.