

## Meeting Agenda

**Date:** February 24, 2020

**Subject:** Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

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1. Approve and or amend the January 27<sup>th</sup>. meeting minutes.
2. Phillip Barrier updates.
3. Dave & Phillip: Newland strip mall property development status?

#### **4. Unfinished Business:**

##### a. March, 2020 Retaining Employees Workshop:

1. We have our guest speaker confirmed and 4 work shop facilitators confirmed [will want to reconfirm with David as we get closer to the date].
2. Should we try and line-up a “just in case” stand-by/backup facilitator?
3. Additional assignment of project tasks – personal invitations, advertising, etc.?
4. Final arrangements and assignments.

##### Completed:

Debbie McLean, Branch Manager at the Avery County Morrison Public Library has put us down for both dates [per our telecom 11/07] – 3/19 primary and 3/26 as our fall back date if we have to cancel 3/19 because of weather, hours 11:30 until 1:00 with an approx. ½ hour overrun. Reminder – the downstairs facility can accommodate 40 people easily - 60 max. and they have sufficient chairs & tables to seat 40.

Kate Gavenus has arranged with Pat Mitchell of the North Carolina Department of Commerce to be our guest speaker.

Jesse Pope will be a work shop facilitator.

Melynda Pepple has arranged with Fallon Boland to be a work shop facilitator.

David Pollard has confirmed he would be a work shop facilitator.

Susan has made catering arrangements with the Little Deer Café in Linville for box lunches [The Hampton Store is closed thru March] and will provide flower table centerpieces from the Ingles florist.

- b. Status of Pool Opening video? Brent Ramsey, Blue Ridge Film Productions has advised Ken he has enough material to satisfy the Avery County attorney’s concern about identifiable children – even though we have releases, and re-do the video by eliminating said children and adding additional footage at a cost not to exceed \$150.00. We could pay for this from our advertising budget and if we decide to do so this will need to be put to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration at their next meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

##### c. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress update.

- d. EDC member term expirations this May [05/01] - Clayton Harpold [he was appointed to finish out Roy Reynolds term], Dave Smith [finishing out Mike Reese’s term, who was finishing out Larry Hazen’s term] and Ken Walter. In addition it seems that we will need to replace David Pollard’s seat.

NOTE: We should feel free to recruit potential new members and provide application information and assistance.

##### e. Other?

#### **5. New Business:**

- a. Do we want to do another video - re. opening of the new State Employees Credit Union building?
- b. Other?

- 6. Education sub-Committee Report [Susan, Dave & Ken]:**
  - a. Ken has offered our services as participants in the Mayland Community College Job Readiness Boot Camp they are starting this spring. The goal is to help ex-offenders and justice involved individuals transition into meaningful employment.
- 7. Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report [Eric Berg]:**
  - a. Progress report.
  - b. Confirm we are on the same “message” page.
- 8. Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:**
  - a. Avery County Chamber of Commerce Visitors & Relocation Guide handout.
  - b. Other?
- 9. Agricultural sub-Committee Report [David Pollard]:**
  - a.
- 10. Other new business and/or issues to address?**
- 11. Potential future discussion topics:**
  - (a) None as of this date.
- 12. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?**
- 13. Next meeting – Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES:**

1. April 29, 2019 combined EDC/BoC meeting review. For the record our suggestion list was:
  - a) The development of an Arts, Craft & Agricultural Products Market. Such a facility appropriately marketed would serve all of Avery County.
  - b) Pitch to gated community members our Avery County business opportunities and county needs, in the hope of enlisting their interest and/or support.

NOTE: Susan has made an excellent suggestion - “Next time, instead of calling it a joint meeting, what if we call it a ‘presentation’ to the BOC. We could break the hour in half & in the first half hour, we could share info on what we have accomplished. Then, give the second half hour for feedback or talk time.”
2. Previously Phil Trew, NC Works and Rebecca Bloomquist, High Country Council of Governments have offered their assistance with grant writing - as has Kate Gavenus [many moons ago]. Is investigating grants something we should be recommending to the Board of Commissioners?
3. At the October 28, 2019 meeting a motion was made & passed extending the EDC Meeting times from 6:00 to 6:30 PM, on those dates when the committee has a guest speaker.