

Meeting Agenda

Date: July 27, 2020

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

IMPORTANT PRE-MEETING INFORMATION - We need to observe the maximum 10 people gathering COVID-19 rule, but potentially there could be 12 of us [9 EDC members & 3 county officials]. **If you are unable to attend PLEASE let me know ASAP**, so we can plan accordingly. We will be live streaming this meeting if you can't attend in person, but are available to watch & listen – hopefully we will be able to have streaming EDC attendees interactive. All that said, let's all be prepared to be in compliance with COVID-19 social distancing and all other similar COVID -19 guidelines.

The meeting will come to order.

1. Approve and or amend the June 29th. Meeting Minutes.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Web Site Development Project status update – Jerry & Ken. **Per our June meeting agreement our #1 priority for today is to discuss and evaluate this project. Our goal is to agree on an action plan and budget to present to the Board of Commissioners. This may require we devote the whole of our meeting time to this objective.**
Note: If anyone has an important announcement, please do so before we begin.
 - b. Retaining Employees Workshop - need to reschedule at a future date. Should we consider live streaming the event?
 - c. Pool Opening video status?
 - d. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress update.
 - e. Other?
3. Phillip Barrier updates.
4. Dave, Phillip & Ken: Newland strip mall property development status? IRC/Structall update?
5. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
 - a. The following is the answer to the question of “What can we - as the EDC, do to help/assist our local businesses recover from the resulting COVID-19 financial crises?”. Allen Cook, Director of the Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer various assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans. I share his announcements with all EDC Members and also with Phillip & Dennis Holland to post on either the Avery County web site or on our EDC page. It is important that every effort be made to get this this information out to our business community.
6. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry]:**
 - a. Report?
7. **Residential Housing sub-Committee [Eric]:**
 - a. Report?
8. **Education sub-Committee Report [Susan, Dave & Ken]:**
 - a. Nothing at this time, as a result of COVID-10 cancellations.
9. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:**
 - a.
10. **Potential future discussion topics:**
 - a.
11. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?

12. Next meeting – Monday, August 31st.

Is there any objection to closing the meeting? Hearing no objection, the meeting is adjourned.

NOTES: (1) Opening & closing instructions in **bold** are now in compliance with “Robert’s Rules of Order”, 11th Edition.

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.