

Meeting Agenda

Date: December 30, 2019

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

1. Approve and or amend the November 25th. 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.?

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, or provide an alternate.

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

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

- b. Status of: Pool Opening video, Cooperative Extension & Avery County Fair video, Cannon Hospital & Avery County High School ground breaking photos. Hold-up to date has been the release from the Avery County attorney.
- c. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress [was to speak with Keith about how this program could work for them]?
- d. Other?

5. New Business:

- a. Based on the Straw Poll results to change the officers election date from January to June [Yes votes – 8, No votes – 0, county officer feedback – none.], we would need a motion to make said change.
- b. Potential new EDC members: Kate Gavenus suggested Jessica Wiseman, of Linville Falls Winery. At our November Kate agreed to invite Jessica to attend an EDC Meeting as a guest, this in the hope this may encourage to volunteer as an EDC Member. Status?
- c. Susan also has a suggestion - ?, Ken recommended we recruit someone from the high school and at our November meeting Reid Clark was suggested as someone from the agricultural community.
- d. Other?

6. Education sub-Committee Report [Susan & Dave]:

- a. Schedule for next Junior Achievement class pending.

7. Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report [Eric Berg]:

- a.

8. Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:

- a. Avery County Chamber of Commerce Visitors & Relocation Guide update?
- b. Other?

9. Agricultural sub-Committee Report [David Pollard]:

- a. Status of wineries visits - re. having our logo on the Linville Falls wine bottle labels?
- b. Other?

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, January 27th.

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.