

Meeting Agenda

Date: February 25, 2019

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

1. Approve and or amend the January 14th. meeting minutes.
2. Election of officers for the 2019 calendar year.
3. Presentation by Ms. Lesley Platek, Volunteer & Special Events Co-coordinator for Grandfather Mountain and the Avery High School Culinary Arts Program, re. how can the EDC/BoC support this initiative to keep graduates employed in Avery County?
4. Phillip Barrier updates & Status Reports.
5. Ken: I was contacted by a property developer interested in Avery County after he perused our EDC website. Phillip & I are scheduled to meet with him this Wednesday afternoon.
6. **Primary Business for the Day:** Review our member questions, suggestions, goals & objectives brought to today's meeting and then decide/choose those to present to the Board of Commissioners. Decide if we wish to recommend to the BoC that they join the Main Street America organization – re. information provided by Dave Smith and covered in my e-mail dated February 18th [copy attached]. This to provide them a starting point in providing us their economic development vision for the future. We will then mutually decide [BoC & EDC] which goals are achievable - both short & long term, rank the goals and then determine the BoC's level of commitment to achieving said goals.
 - a. Arts, Crafts & Agricultural Products market facility location in the Newland area.
 - b. Pitch to gated community members our Avery County business opportunities and county needs, in the hope of enlisting interest and/or support.
 - c. Avery County High School Culinary Program support, re. Ms. Lesley Platek's presentation to us this date.

If we have sufficient time we can address any or all of the following:

7. **Old Business:**
 - a. Susan re. Phil Trew, NC Works and Rebecca Bloomquist, High Country Council of Governments have offered their assistance with grant writing, should we recommend that the Board of Commissioners investigate grants that they/we would be eligible to apply for? (also Kate Gavenus, Tourism & Economic Development Coordinator for Beech Mountain and her offer at our 5/28/18 meeting).
 - b. Other?
8. **New Business:**
 - a. Do we need to pursue contact with any of the organizations that attended our 10/29 meeting?
 - b. Use of Blue Ridge Film Productions/Brent Ramsey and his drone to enhance the marketing of our available commercial/industrial properties?
 - c. Other?

9. Marketing sub-Committee Report [Carmen & Melynda]:

- a. Other collaboration ideas with Mr. Frank Mr. Frank Ruggiero, Director of Marketing for the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation?
- b. Other?

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

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

11. Education sub-Committee Report [Susan & Ken]:

- a. Junior Achievement program status.
- b. Other?

12. Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report:

- a. Appoint a new committee?

13. Other new business and/or issues to address?

14. Potential discussion topics:

(a) Christmas tree & other agricultural tourism & economic development (b) Heritage tourism
(c) Photo-electric/solar farms (d) International partnership (e) Trade show participation (f) High speed internet via satellite services. Based on Roy Reynold's research should we consider potential county grant funding re. dishes for income eligible families?

15. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?

16. Next meeting – Monday, March 25th?