

Meeting Agenda

Date: November 26, 2018

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

We will give the floor to David Huskins – guest speaker invited by Blake Vance & Phillip Barrier and then open our meeting after his presentation (see #5f below) Note: Speaker unconfirmed.

1. Approve and or amend October 29th. meeting minutes.
2. Continue to reassess our EDC goals and objectives as a result of our combined BoC & EDC meeting.
 - a. New idea suggestions.
3. **Phillip Barrier updates & Status Reports:**
 - a. High speed internet grants?
 - b. New business development news [Newland strip mall, US Textiles property & IRC building and old Cannon Hospital in Banner Elk].
 - c. Proposed meeting with the Avery Journal & Avery Post?
 - d. New pool project progress.
 - d. Other?
4. **Old Business:**
 - a. While I thought we had a shot at locating Run Amok Mead back in Avery County - in the Hardee's building in Banner Elk, it turns out this property is apparently under contract. Christy Hemenway is currently looking at the former Foscoe Fire Dept. building in Watauga County.
 - b. 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).
 - c. When does the Board of Commissioners want to schedule our next combined meeting?
 - d. Other?
5. **New Business:**
 - a. Will MEC participate in the Broadband Office's Launch of their new Broadband Grant Program?
 - b. Do we need to pursue contact with any of the organizations that attended our 10/29 meeting?
 - c. From our 10/29 meeting re. the Avery County video: The desire to "could be cut down into smaller pieces, clips could be lifted from the video for shorter presentations or uses".
 - d. Also from our 10/29 meeting: Mr. Barrier stated that the photograph that he wished to use on county vehicles was too "pixely." Mr. Pope advised that a higher resolution photograph may be required. – How to proceed?
 - e. What is the next step in establishing a Crafts & Artists Retail Center in Newland?
 - f. Blake Vance re. his friend David Huskins, who is an economic development consultant, as an EDC guest speaker. He was previously responsible for attracting many of the (now closed) factories to Avery - TRW, Owens Brigham, and Addco. He is semi-retired, but possibly interested in working with Avery County.
 - g. Use of Blue Ridge Film Productions/Brent Ramsey and his drone to enhance the marketing of our available commercial/industrial properties?
 - h. Other?
6. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Carmen & Melynda]:**
 - a. Avery Chamber of Commerce "Visitor, Relocation and Business Guide" ad status?

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

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

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

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

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

9. Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report [Trey]:

- a. Trey re. status of Grandfather Mountain Soccer Games, other ideas?.

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

11. 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?

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

13. Next meeting – If we agree that December 31st is not an option, then we need to schedule an alternate date.