

Meeting Agenda

Date: January 25, 2022

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: This will be a virtual meeting, I will send out the link on Tuesday.

If you can't attend the meeting virtually, but would like to join by phone please let me know as far in advance as possible.

Given the potential time constraint of this meeting – re. Agenda item #3, I have highlighted those agenda items that need to be addressed, all others can be dealt with at our February meeting if need be. Of course any member with important information or news we will make time for.

The meeting will come to order.

- 1. Approve and or amend the November 30th. Meeting Minutes.**
- 2. Election of officers for the 2022 calendar year.**
- 3. Guest speakers – Victoria and Jon Bowman, Structall Building Systems. They will most likely take up most of our time from 5:00 to 6:00, as a result this will be a 1½ hour long meeting.**
- 4. Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Anne Winkleman to provide the final report on our Avery County Chamber of Commerce “Business & Tourist Guide” ad.
 - b. Clayton Harpold to report on Mission Statement progress. Are we ready to adopt?
 - c. Kate Gavenus to report on New Business Guide Tool Box project.
 - d. Phillip Barrier to report on the progress of the Four County Housing Needs Assessment project.
 - e. Phillip Barrier to report on the Occupancy Tax status?
 - f. Phillip Barrier to report on the American Recovery Plan funds applicable to Avery County & the EDC?
 - g. To do someday - the new Cannon Hospital & Avery County High School videos. [Reminder - the price quoted to do the Community Center video was applicable to doing both the Hospital & High school videos, but due to the budget delay we may need to request an updated quote.]
 - h. Other?
- 5. Phillip Barrier updates and other news re. strip mall property, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Structall, etc. Availability of Avery County Logo decals? Other new business news? Dave Smith re. Newland strip mall property development status and pancake house update.**
- 6. New Business and/or other issues to address:**
 - a. Ken to read the thank you letter received from Cindy Lindecamp, Volunteer Avery County & Community Services re. our \$150.00 EDC Committee Member donation.
 - b. “Finding, Keeping, and Motivating Workers Workshop” to be presented by Professor Tonya Snider - re. offer from Allen Cook. Per Phillip Barrier’s recommendation during our September meeting it was agreed to postpone this workshop until early next Spring due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Reminder: our only obligation to host will be to provide a venue – Avery County Community Center and lunch and we will also offer as Zoom webinar for those who cannot attend in person. Note: Allen Cook OK’d re. 09-29 e-mail. We need to come up with an estimated cost budget and submit to the Board of Commissioners for approval before we can schedule a workshop date. In this regard let’s use \$10.00 per person and estimate the potential for 30 participants? Ken will recommend we postpone further discussion until our February meeting.
 - c. Other?

7. **Avery County Chamber of Commerce** - Anne Winkleman.
8. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry Moody]:**
 - a. News and/or updated information on the kill & chill project news.
 - b. Other
9. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Ken]:**
 - a. No report.
10. **Education sub-Committee Report [Ken Walter]:**
 - a. Phillip & Ken were asked to join the new Avery County School System “Business Advisory Council” and both attended the first meeting. The next meeting has been tentatively scheduled for some time in February.
 - b. Other
11. **Future discussion and/or action topics:**
 - a. ?
12. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?
13. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, February 22nd.

Are there any objections to closing the meeting? Hearing no objections, 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 has 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.

Reminders:

1. Allen Cook, Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans.