

Meeting Agenda

Date: January 31, 2023

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

Meeting Information – same time and place as usual. If you can't attend the meeting, but would like to join by phone please let me know ASAP.

The meeting will come to order.

1. Amend/approve the November 29th. Meeting Minutes.
2. Comments from retiring Chairperson Ken Walter.
3. Election of officers for the 2023 calendar year – Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson & Secretary [current officers: Ken Walter, Chair., Clayton Harpold, Vice-Chair. and Susan Siirila, Secretary].
4. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. The public hearing to approve the Survey Monkey subscription expenditure - so we can move ahead with the New Business Guide Tool Box project, remains to be scheduled. Phillip Barrier & Kate Gavenus as project leader to report accordingly.
 - b. Phillip Barrier to report on the progress of the Great Grant, CAB Grant and American Recovery Plan funds going forward to provide county broadband coverage.
 - c. Phillip Barrier to report on any new developments re. the proposed apartment complex at the old Lowes Strip Mall property. Other new business news?
 - d. Phillip to provide any updated status information on the EV Charging Stations grant application.
 - e. Philip/Dennis re. Occupancy Tax bill progress in the NC General Assembly/Legislature.
 - f. Other?
5. **Pending Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Ellis Ayers to report on Stephanie Watson's Video Production Class's progress to date doing our Avery County High School video – with Dr. Brigman and possibly John Greene as presenters. In addition Ellis to comment on the possibility of asking this Avery County High School class if they would consider doing the Cannon Memorial Hospital video as well. In this case we would provide them the 7½ minute video previously provided us by Stephanie Greer, President Cannon Memorial Hospital & Regional Behavioral Health Hospital. The project goal to edit the 7½ minute video down to approximately 90 seconds.
 - b. Other?
6. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
 - a. Appointment of committee chairs.
 - b. While it is early days we need to be mindful that the following EDC member terms expire this year: Clayton Harpold on April 1st [initially appointed in 2020], Dave Smith on May 1st [initially appointed in 2019 to fill out Mike Reese's term, reappointed in 2020], Ken Walter on May 1st [initially appointed in 2017].
Note: Explain Cindy Turbyfill's term extension, per her e-mail.
 - c. Dave Smith and/or Terri Melton re. any news on the 13 acre Lacey property and any other Avery County commercial real estate news?
 - d. Other?
7. **Avery County Chamber of Commerce [Anne Winkleman]:**
 - a. 2022 recap or 2023 news.
 - b. Other?

8. Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry Moody]:

- a. News and/or updated information on the kill & chill project news.
- b. Farm land conservancy progress update.
- c. Other?

9. Education sub-Committee Report [Ellis Ayers]:

- a. See Section 5a under Pending Unfinished Business.
- b. Reports re. Business Advisory Council and mock employment interviews with students.
- c. Other?

10. Marketing sub-Committee Report [Ken Walter]:

- a. No report.

11. Mayland Community College [John Boyd]:

12. Future discussion and/or action topics:

- a. Phillip Barrier's efforts to recruit a potential future workshop presenter successful, but on the presenter's request was put on "Hold" until a future date when this person has more time.
- b. At our May 31, 2022 EDC meeting Ken explained that Phillip, Dennis and he had met Chris Cavanaugh, President of the Magellan Group who is an acknowledged authority on all aspects of Occupancy Tax application and TDA administration. His fee to do a presentation for us and the Board of Commissioners would be \$175.00/hour plus expenses (mostly mileage). This might be Occupancy Tax money well spent to educate all of us.

Note: This is currently on "hold" pending resolution of the Occupancy Tax holdup dilemma.

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

14. Next meeting – Tuesday, February 28th.

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 FOR FUTURE REFERENCE:

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.
2. Susan has made an excellent suggestion – In the future instead of calling a joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners we call it a 'presentation' to the BOC. This so we can share info on what we have accomplished and then request feedback from the BoC accordingly.
3. 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?

Reminders:

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