

## Meeting Agenda

**Date:** August 31, 2020

**Subject:** Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

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**IMPORTANT PRE-MEETING INFORMATION** - We still need to observe the maximum 10 people gathering COVID-19 rule, but potentially there could be 12 of us [9 EDC members & 3 county officials]. **If you are unable to attend PLEASE let me know ASAP**, so we can plan accordingly. We will be live streaming this meeting if you can't attend in person, but are available to watch & listen – hopefully we will be able to have streaming EDC attendees interactive. All that said, let's all be prepared to be in compliance with COVID-19 social distancing and all other similar COVID -19 guidelines.

The meeting will come to order.

1. **Guest speakers presentation** – Jim Hamilton, County Extension Director of Watauga County, Eddy Labus, Extension Agent Livestock Watauga County and Robert Shipley owner/operator of Shipley Farms Beef, will be joining us via Zoom. They will be discussing the opportunities in small scale professional slaughter and how Avery County could potentially participate and encourage them.
2. Approve and or amend the July 27th. Meeting Minutes.
3. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. Web Site Development Project status update – Dennis Holland, Jerry, Melynda & Ken.
  - b. Pool Opening video status?
  - c. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress update.
  - d. Retaining Employees Workshop – to be rescheduled when it is COVID-19 safe.
  - e. Other?
4. Phillip Barrier updates.
5. Dave, Phillip & Ken: Newland strip mall property development status, IRC/Structall update and Jarvis Holistic Center.
6. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
  - a. The following is the answer to the question of “What can we - as the EDC, do to help/assist our local businesses recover from the resulting COVID-19 financial crises?”. Allen Cook, Director of the Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer various assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans. I share his announcements with all EDC Members. It is important that every effort be made to get this this information out to our business community.
7. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry]:**
  - a. Report?
8. **Residential Housing sub-Committee [Eric]:**
  - a. Report?
9. **Education sub-Committee Report [Susan, Dave & Ken]:**
  - a. We will consider Junior Achievement again when it is COVID-19 safe.
10. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:**
  - a.
11. **Potential future discussion topics:**
  - a.
12. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?

**13. Next meeting** – Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup> .

NOTE: I will be away for a short period of time and out of contact in October.

**Is there any objection to closing the meeting? Hearing no objection, the meeting is adjourned.**

**NOTES:** (1) Opening & closing instructions in **bold** are now in compliance with “Robert’s Rules of Order”, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 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.