

Meeting Agenda

Date: November 29, 2022

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 October 25th. Meeting Minutes.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
 - a. New Business Guide Tool Box project. Phillip Barrier to report on the status of the Survey Monkey subscription, this because the monthly cost had increased by \$7.00 over the approved budget figure. Kate Gavenus to report on the actual readiness of the survey itself.
 - b. Phillip Barrier to report on the progress of the Great Grant, CAV 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?
3. **Pending Unfinished Business:**
 - a. Avery County High School & Cannon Hospital videos. Ken Walter has been working with Stephanie Greer, President Cannon Memorial Hospital & Regional Behavioral Health Hospital who has offered their 7½ minute video for us to try and edit down to our approx. 90 second time frame. I provided the video to Brent Ramsey on 11/07, but have not heard back from him yet as to whether this is a project he is willing to undertake. Ellis Ayers has been working with Stephanie Watson with the Avery High School's Video Production Class who has agreed to do our high school video. Ellis and I are working on providing Stephanie production ideas and arranging for Dr. Brigman and possibly John Greene as our presenters.
 - b. Other?
4. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
 - a. As my 2nd. three term will be up in May I will no longer be eligible to be an EDC member thereafter. Thus to insure a smooth transition we need to elect a new chairperson at our January meeting and yes the Board of Commissioners could extend my term, but this an unknown. During the interim period I would very much appreciate being appointed to the Education sub-Committee and Ellis has indicated this would be agreeable to him.
 - b. Ken to report on his and Dan Williams efforts to acquire and develop the 13 acre property owned by Mike Lacey in the Town of Newland for the construction of affordable/market rate apartment housing. Regrettably the developer Dan was working with has decided to consider development opportunities elsewhere. Dan & Ken have turned this opportunity over to Dave Smith to pursue.
 - c. Ken to present draft layout for the full page ad in the 2023 Chamber of Commerce "Business & Tourist Guide". If acceptable we need a motion to approve, so we can present to the Board of Commissioners for their approval. Note: I have received the ad invoice in the amount of \$915.00 and I have submitted it for payment.
 - d. Dave Smith and/or Terri Melton re. any new Avery County commercial real estate news?
 - e. Other?

5. Avery County Chamber of Commerce [Anne Winkleman]:

- a. Festival reports.
- b. Other?

6. 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?

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

- a. Linville Land Harbor has agreed to join in the Avery Schools career outreach efforts to connect with the business community - re. their shadowing, intern and apprenticeship programs.
- b. Status report on the possibility of the high school's Video Productions Class doing the new high school addition video.
- c. Reports re. Business Advisory Council and mock employment interviews with students.
- d. Other?

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

- a. See section 4c.

9. Mayland Community College [John Boyd]:

10. 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.

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

12. Next meeting – Tuesday, January 31st.

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.

Together...

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The Economic Development Committee – promoting the success, growth and retention of new & existing businesses in Avery County.

The mission of the Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee is to enhance the quality of life for Avery residents by attracting, inspiring, and supporting new businesses; by boosting and encouraging existing businesses; and, by identifying and promoting local infrastructure projects in the county.

Whether you are growing an established business, starting a new business, or considering relocating your business to the area, you can be assured our county officials and the Economic Development staff are at your disposal to assist you each step of the way. We know the who, what, where and how so you don't have to spend your precious time doing the research. Call on us to provide you personalized service to address your specific needs.

We are here for you.