

Meeting Agenda

Date: January 14, 2019

Subject: Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

1. Approve and or amend November 26th. meeting minutes.
2. Election of officers for the 2019 calendar year.
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. **Primary Business for the Day:** Develop “Strategic Plan” suggestions & questions to pose to the Board of Commissioners. This to provide them a starting point in providing us their economic development vision, so that we can develop an appropriate strategic plan to address their vision. Review the 3 other county strategic plans provided by Phillip and benchmark accordingly.

If we have sufficient time we can address the following:

5. **Old Business:**
 - a. 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).
 - b. Other?
6. **New Business:**
 - a. Do we need to pursue contact with any of the organizations that attended our 10/29 meeting?
 - b. 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?
 - c. What is the next step in establishing a Crafts & Artists Retail Center in Newland?
 - d. Use of Blue Ridge Film Productions/Brent Ramsey and his drone to enhance the marketing of our available commercial/industrial properties?
 - e. Other?
7. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Carmen & Melynda]:**
 - a. Other collaboration ideas with Mr. Frank Mr. Frank Ruggiero, Director of Marketing for the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation?
 - b. Other?
8. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [David Pollard]:**
 - a. Status of wineries visits - re. having our logo on the Linville Falls wine bottle labels?
 - b. Other.
9. **Education sub-Committee Report [Susan & Ken]:**

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

10. Outdoor Recreation sub-Committee Report:

- a. Appoint a new committee?

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

12. 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?

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

14. Next meeting – Monday, January 28th.?