

TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

SUMMARY OF MEETING JANUARY 28, 2019

The Town of Chesapeake Beach Economic Development Committee (EDC) held a meeting on Monday January 28, 2019 at 7:00 pm in Town Hall Council Chambers

Attendees: Kristen DePhillip; Tiffany Geare; Deborah Noyes; Keith Pardieck; Norma Ramsey Robertson; Jen Sanders; Greg Morris; and Larry Jaworski. Also in attendance was Danita Boonchaisri from the Calvert County Department of Economic Development.

The meeting opened with a discussion of programs to encourage drug free workplaces. Kristen DePhillip discussed various materials and programs available to support employers in establishing drug free work places in their businesses. Advantages for the businesses include: reduction in lost time from employees taking sick leave or absences, potential savings in Workman's Comp insurance, reduction in overhead costs associated with hiring and training new employees when a current employee leaves for medical issues, and stronger business support to address alcohol and drugs in our workplaces. It was agreed that the EDC will work to get information on these programs distributed across our town and inserted into Town Happenings.

Discussion Items:

- There has been an increase in joint efforts between the Economic Development Committees of the Towns of Chesapeake Beach and North Beach. These efforts include:
 - 5G and Small Cell Initiatives. New 5G and Small Cell technologies are in the future. These technologies have many advantages including higher speed internet service and increased options to select companies to provide these services. Our towns have created a joint work group to address this issue. Both Towns agree we want to be proactive and not reactive in this matter. The joint work group will hold its second meeting on Wednesday January 30 at 7:00p in North Beach Town Hall.
 - There will be a joint meeting of the two EDC's on Wednesday February 13 at 7:00p in North Beach Town Hall. Representatives of the Calvert County Department of Economic Development will participate. Purpose of this effort is to discuss how the EDCs can provide more support to our existing businesses and encourage appropriate growth of new businesses.
 - Reinstatement of a new Beach Bus to serve our towns. Discussions began last year on the possibility of reestablishing a limited Beach Bus to serve our towns. These discussions are resuming. It has already been agreed that any Beach Bus would run only between Chesapeake Beach and Herrington Harbor South. The bus would run between Memorial Day and Labor Day and probably only on weekends. Deborah Noyes stated she is currently working on a spreadsheet to identify various costs associated with this service. Greg Morris stated it is essential that there be a committee established to

manage the Beach Bus program. Actual logistics of the service would be contracted out to a transportation company. It is hoped we might be able to establish this service in time for this summer's tourist season.

- This year marks the 125th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Chesapeake Beach. Planning is underway to hold several events throughout the year. The Town is currently working on signs "Celebrating 125 Years" that will be mounted on the four Welcome to Chesapeake Beach signs around town. The first event in the planning stage is a celebration of the Town's incorporation on April 3, 1894. This event will be held in Town Hall on Saturday April 6, from 4:00 TO 6:00. Details to come.
- The annual Stars & Stripes Festival will be held again this year over the Memorial Day weekend. Details to be announced
- Our annual Fireworks display will be held on July 3rd.
- Taste the Beaches III is scheduled for Saturday September 14 from noon to 5:00 at Kellams. Planning is underway and we are already getting interest expressed by possible vendors.
- The EDC is discussing a possible general sponsorship for town events. Currently local businesses are asked to provide financial support for individual events such as the Stars and Stripes Festival and Taste the Beaches. A general sponsorship would solicit a single annual contribution for all town events.
- EDC is working with the new Director of Tourism, Hilary Dailey who is well known in our town. We will work closely with Hilary to get increased publicity for town events.
- Greg Morris stated that planning is underway for additional military concerts in Veteran's Park. Norma Robertson asked if it might be possible to hold other concerts there as well to feature local musicians. The EDC will look into this opportunity.
- This year also marks the 25th anniversary of our Water Park. There may be a ceremony to celebrate this event.
- Danita Boonchaisri briefed the group on several efforts underway. The 2019 Calvert County Visitors Guide will be available in the next few days. Copies will be available at Town Hall. Several "ribbon cutting" ceremonies are in the planning stage. These may include the opening of the new bridge over Fishing Creek, the Water Park anniversary and the 125th Celebration.
- Jen Sanders asked if the County might offer any assistance with things such as graphic design for materials announcing events such as Taste the Beaches. At the current time no such assistance is available. It was discussed that the Town might solicit volunteers to help with such efforts. We have a growing retirement community that might be willing to help with such efforts.
- Efforts are underway to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The County is also underway with an update to the County comprehensive Plan. Everyone was encouraged to provide input into these critical documents.

NEXT MEETING OF EDC: TO BE SCHEDULED