

TOWN OF CHESAPEAKE BEACH
TOWN COUNCIL
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Economic Development Committee (EDC) of the Town Council held its first public meeting at Town Hall on Wednesday March 15, 2017. In attendance were:

Bob & Sharon Munro

Peter & Nancy Feuerle

Jan & Chuck Ruttkay

Shawn Gageby – Calvert County Economic Development Committee

Gary Luckett – Owner of Trader’s Restaurant

Robert Ken - Owner of Peking Restaurant

Joyce Baki, Tourism Specialist for Calvert County and Susan Mills, Windward Key - Founders of the Barn Quilt Trail Committee

John Bacon - CBOCS

Bucky O’Dell

Stewart Cumbo – Chesapeake Beach Town Council

Connie O’Dell – Chesapeake Beach Special Events Coordinator

Greg Morris – Town EDC

Larry Jaworski – Town EDC

Mr. Jaworski and Mr. Morris opened the meeting by explaining that Mayor Mahoney had established the EDC as a first step in his Mayoral term. Since the committee was established, Mr. Morris and Mr. Jaworski had met with several of the larger business owners in our Town to discuss what economic development means to them. These discussions were very beneficial and resulted in a wide range of suggestions including having the Town government being more supportive of businesses – both existing and prospective - in our Town. The EDC has also met with the North Beach EDC and both Towns have pledged to work cooperatively to increase economic development in our Towns – what is good for one Town is good for the other. The EDC also met with Mr. Gageby of the County EDC to seek ways to work productively together.

There was a good discussion of what economic development means to various residents and businesses. Key points of discussion include:

- Additional economic development should consist of “in-fill” development and not necessarily “new” development
- Question raised as to where any additional development would occur since our Town is essentially built-out.
- Strong desire for significantly increased pedestrian access. Specific examples include SAFE access at intersection of Route 261 and Mears/Harbor Avenue. Also possibly filling in missing section of sidewalk along east side of Route 261 between the Seagate development and the Horizons On The Bay.
- Possible development of the Sizemore Building located near intersection of Route 261 and First Avenue across from Neptune’s Restaurant.
- Mr. Cumbo mentioned several previous initiatives for economic development that did not receive support from previous Council. These include:
 - Advertising events to be held in our Town
 - Signage in Town to direct visitors to various venues
 - A cooperative effort by the Town, Comcast and various local businesses to invest in a commercial featuring Town businesses and attractions,
 - Holding a Flea Market similar to the Farmer’s Market held in North Beach
- There was extensive discussion of further utilization of Kellams Field
 - Possibly scheduling lacrosse and soccer events
 - Need to balance additional events with protecting playing surface
 - Possibly looking into our Town acquiring Kellams Field which is currently owned by Calvert County although our Town does ALL maintenance and has constructed the stands and lights.
- North East Community Center – again there was discussion of our Town possibly acquiring the Center to have control over scheduling events and to more fully utilize this resource.
- Representatives discussed the Barn Quilt Festival and the ongoing efforts to expand the Calvert County Barn Quilt Trail
- Discussed possible bicycle tour events and connecting bike trails in the area to provide a safe continuous route leading to/from our Town.
- Our Town needs more vigorous enforcement of Building Codes to ensure our Town is kept clean and dilapidated buildings are corrected in a timely manner.
- It may be necessary to increase Town staff to further advance EDC initiatives since current Town staff already has multiple assignments.

- We might seek designation as a “Main Street Community” which is a program run by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development in conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s National Main Street Center. There are currently 23 Main Street Communities in the State of Maryland – none in Calvert County.

The meeting concluded with the announcement of initial planning for the First Annual Taste the Beaches event. This event will entail inviting local food establishments, breweries and wineries to offer samples to attending participants. In addition, there are plans to have musical entertainment, arts demonstrations, tours of the CBOCS activities and the Railway Trail and other local venues to increase local and area interest in what our Towns have to offer. Planning will be coordinated with the Town of North Beach. Tentative date for this event is Saturday September 9, from 1:00p to 5:00p. More details to come

NEXT STEPS: The EDC intends to follow up on the various suggestions and comments and identify what programs can be moved forward in a timely manner. Future meetings will be announced