



TALBOT COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
215 Bay Street, Suite #5 | EASTON, MARYLAND 21601 | (P) 410-770-8058 (F) 410-770-8059

Talbot County Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes from November 2, 2017

Members Present: Chairman, Timothy G. Jones, Al Silverstein, Walter Chase, Ron Engle, Ted Bautz, Dr. Clay Railey, Jean Weisman, Peter Dunbar, Jacqueline Wilson, Mike Henry, Cassandra Vanhooser, Jennifer Williams, Craig Warner, Gerry O'Mara, Margaret Enloe, and Terenda Thomas.

Department of Economic Development Staff Present: Sam Shoge, Ryan Snow, Kathy Megahan

Attendees: Scott Warner, Laura Heikes, Helga Einhorn, Deborah Bowden, Susie Hayward, Scott Warner, Dana Newman, and Andrew Hollis

Call to Order: Mr. Tim Jones called the meeting to order with a quorum at 8:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the October 5 meeting were presented. Mr. Silverstein moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Mr. Chase seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous vote.

Business Center Update: Ms. Vanhooser reported that a tour of the center was given to commission members by the Economic Development staff on Wednesday, October 25 during Economic Development Week. She stated a number of rental proposals and contracts are being drafted and if all come to fruition, the manufacturing floor will be filled. She also reported that current clients of the business center, The Whalen Company and Maverick Transport, intend to add additional employees in the coming year.

Economic Development Week Update: A celebration of Talbot businesses was held October 22 – 28 in Talbot County for Maryland Economic Development Week. This event included a proclamation by the County Council, an interview in *The Talbot Spy*, the launching of the department's Facebook page and newsletter, as well as business retention visits to five local businesses. Business retention visits included; Nagel Farms, Channel Marker, Tricycle & Run, Severn Marine Services, and Hair of the Dog.

***Class E Legislation:** Ms. Jackie Wilson made a motion for EDC to recommend that the county council support legislation that allows the creation of a new class of liquor license to support the



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establishment of bistros in Talbot County. The motion was seconded by Mr. Engle and passed unanimously.

- Ms. Vanhooser discussed the request for approval of legislation by the County Council for an Enterprise Zone for Tilghman Island to help spur redevelopment.
- She also encouraged members to be involved in Next Step 190 and to visit the website for dates and more information: <https://www.nextstep190.com/>

Strategic Plan Update Presentation: Sam Shoge

- Revised Mission and Vision statement agreed upon by members as written in plan
- Goal #1 Business Retention and Rapid Response Team
 - Include how to help business through legislative, regulatory and permitting issues
 - Business resource guide needs to include how to **START** and Expand business
 - Create economic disaster plan, work with insurance industry, and emphasize partnerships with other agencies and departments engaged in same activity.
- Goal #2 Business Attraction and Startup strategy
 - Suggestion by Ms. Williams to remove “Short-term Rental Guide” from step 3
 - Suggestion made to revisit steps 4 and 5 by Mr. Jones to be more generic in type of businesses we are trying to attract, not just specific industries.
 - Mrs. Wilson suggested to replace Waterfowl with “marquee” Talbot County events for step 6
- Goal #3 Comprehensive Communications Plan and Public Relations Strategy
 - Recommendation made to combine steps 3 and 4 and re-write in a more positive tone. Focus on resources we have to reinforce and promote the opportunities for people and businesses.
- Goal #4 Advocate for County Initiatives that Support Retention and Attraction of Businesses
 - Remove and rewrite step 2 to read, “Advocate for state and federal resources and support.”
 - Unanimous agreement that step 4, Workforce Development should have its own strategic goal and should be included in each section of the plan



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Mr. Jones pointed out that these goals become the blueprint for the Commission. He added that a quality workforce is the key to the success of this plan, and it is vital to work with the local high schools and the community college as partners in this effort.

Ms. Vanhooser reminded the commission that the current plan still needs to be fleshed out and that we are working with our partners to make an operational plan.

Ms. Vanhooser suggested that members send their suggestions on the Strategic Plan in writing to Mr. Shoge.

Coffee and Conservation Update: Mr. Snow reported that the Coffee and Conservation event will be held at the Waterfowl Festival on November 10, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at the Chesapeake Conservation Pavilion.

Chairman Report: Tim Jones

- Election of officers due for Chairman and Vice-Chairman positions
- Members to e-mail Mr. Shoge with names of potential candidates.

Committee Reports:

- No report

County Manager Report: Andy Hollis

- No report

Department of Commerce Report: Debbie Bowden reported on the presentation for the Maryland Capital Enterprise 2017 Palmer Gillis Entrepreneur of the Year. She also reminded members of the “Ready, Set, Grow workshop that will be held on February 21 at Chesapeake College.

Member Updates:

- Reminder from Mr. Chase about 105th Nace’s Day held this Saturday, Nov. 4th in Trappe starting at 9:30
- Chairman Jones inquired about the possibility of a visit to Talbot County by the Secretary of Commerce.
- Mike Henry reported the airport with working with students involved with the St. Michaels A.C.E. program
- AED and NARCAN training going well throughout the county.



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- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 7 at 8:00 am

Adjournment: With business concluded, Mr. Silverstein moved to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Chase and the meeting was adjourned at 9:14