



CALVERT COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

Courthouse, 175 Main Street
Prince Frederick, Maryland 20678
410-535-4583
www.ecalvert.com

Board of Commissioners

Earl F. Hance
Mike Hart
Thomas E. Hutchins
Kelly D. McConkey
Steven R. Weems

MINUTES

April 10, 2019

Running Hare Vineyard, Tuscan Events Building – Prince Frederick, MD

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Benton, Charlie Cox, Susan Cox, Tony DeStefano, Eric Eitel, Stacey Hann-Ruff, Mina Kim, Kim Owen, Carrie Polk, Scott Russey, Kasia Sweeney, Kristin Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Jaworski*, Tommy Luginbill, Bryant Parker

GUESTS PRESENT: Alessia O'Dell- Career & Technology Academy

STAFF PRESENT: Danita Boonchaisri, Kathy MacAdams, Mary Beth Cook

***Excused Absence**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Tony DeStefano.

II. CALL FOR AGENDA REVISIONS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A call for agenda revisions was made by DeStefano. It was requested that an update of the comprehensive plan given by Mary Beth Cook be added to old business. A **motion** was made by Carrie Polk to approve the agenda as amended. The **motion** was seconded by Susan Cox, and carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAR. 13, 2019, MEETING

On a **motion** by Susan Cox, seconded by Polk and carried, the minutes from the Mar. 13, 2019, meeting were approved as submitted.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Running Hare Vineyard

Kim Owen of Running Hare Vineyard gave a presentation on the vineyard and shared its history. She also discussed future plans for the winery.

B. Overview of Calvert County's Agriculture Environment

Danita Boonchaisri opened the discussion about agriculture in Calvert County. Kathy MacAdams spoke about the opening of the farmer's markets, new locations for 2019 and new farmer's market logo. She also briefly mentioned the new ag website and shared with the group that she would be showing it to them later in the meeting. Charlie Cox spoke about his outlook on agriculture and explained to the group about their full-scale agricultural operations at Spider Hall Farm. He also spoke about the importance of ag-education and agri-tourism. Susan Cox added that agri-tourism

has opened the door to educating people about farming. She discussed the importance of the Buy Local movement and expressed how educating the public on the benefits of shopping local can further that movement. Susan Cox also shared that the Buy Local Challenge will be held on July 29th from 5 – 8 p.m. at Spider Hall Farm.

C. Zoning/permitting and regulatory challenges

Boonchaisri discussed how the development of agri-tourism has opened different revenue streams for farms and how that can sometimes challenge what is permitted. Cook discussed that the zoning ordinance will soon be updated and requested that any requested changes be submitted ahead of time so the ordinance can reflect the needs of the ag community. Cook also discussed the additional regulations of properties in preservation programs.

D. Outreach and industry connections

Boonchaisri discussed the value of connecting different organizations, like farms and restaurants, in order to create new partnerships and revenue streams.

E. Demo of new agriculture website [www.calvertag.com]

MacAdams showed the group the new Calvert Ag website and shared that the goal is to keep the website constantly refreshed so it can fulfill its purpose of being a tool for both the farms and the local community.

F. Business Appreciation Week

MacAdams shared an overview of the events planned for Business Appreciation Week (BAW). This year's BAW will be held May 6 – 9. MacAdams also shared that a business walk in the beaches will be scheduled in June and requested that the EDAC participate.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Reminder of Commission Requirements

Scott Russey reminded the EDAC about ethics training, financial disclosure forms and Open Meetings Act Training.

B. Comprehensive Plan Update

Cook shared that the Planning Commission approved the comprehensive plan to be sent on to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC). She also shared that a public hearing is scheduled for 7 p.m. on April 30 at Calvert Pines. She urged the group to send any comments to the BOCC.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended and no comment was taken.

VII. NEXT MEETING

The next EDAC meeting is scheduled to take place at CalvertHealth Medical Center on Jun. 12, 2019, at 9 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

With there being no further business, a **motion** to adjourn was made by Scott Russey at 10:05 a.m. The **motion** was seconded by Mike Benton, and carried.

Following adjournment of the regular meeting, members were invited to remain to take an optional tour of Running Hare Vineyard.