

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)  
TOWN OF MOUNT AIRY  
Minutes of 11/30/2011 Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew Williamson - Chairman  
Gene Lichtman  
Michael VanSant  
Frank Dertzbaugh  
James Linton  
Wendi Peters - Council Liaison  
Bill McCullough

Absent:

Bruce Lee  
Dalia Schulman

Also attending were Kelly Ziad, Town staff member and Pat Rockinberg, Mayor of Mount Airy.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. in Mt. Airy Town Hall.
2. Minutes for EDC meeting of 24 August 2011 were reviewed and approved with word corrections in paragraphs 5 and 10 and correction of name in paragraph 11.
3. Updates were made to a brochure “Getting Started In The Town of Mount Airy, MD” which was not available for review at this meeting. The brochure will be forwarded to Commission members prior to the next meeting for review and discussion. Discussion will focus on content, number of copies, distribution, cost, and other locations for availability.
4. A business card exchange meeting supported in part by the EDC and the town will be held on December 14, 2011 from 4 – 6 p.m. Chairman Williamson volunteered to help sponsor this event up to \$150, with the town committing to use of contingency funds for costs beyond that amount. Publicizing of this event will be done through an email blast and Dalia Schulman will be assisting with catering the event.
5. Discussion continued related to promoting a Buy Local Program for Mount Airy. Mayor Rockinberg informed the Commission that he has been developing a buy local survey business update that will be discussed with in-town businesses. This is an update of a survey performed a couple of years ago. It was suggested that a collection point be established at the 14 December card exchange to collect comments, suggestions, etc. re helping develop a “buy local” program for Mount Airy. Also mentioned for presentation at the business card exchange is the development of a top 10 list of reasons for businesses to come to Mount Airy that can be used to promote the concepts of buy local.

6. Discussion continued related to reviewing of a draft of a Blight Ordinance for Mount Airy. The Mayor encouraged EDC comments and recommendations to help the town in considering implementing a Blight Ordinance. The current draft is currently in a hold status. EDC members are encouraged to review the current draft and bring any recommendations, comments to the next meeting.

7. Commission members were provided a copy of the Mount Airy Town Center Master Plan developed by David H. Gleason Associates, Inc. for information. The Planning Commission with direction to look at alternatives for incorporation, as written, dismissed the plan at one of their meetings. It is suggested the EDC review the document and determine if there are aspects for the EDC to address.

8. Commission members were provided handouts listing Holiday Happenings in Mount Airy and a Downtown Merchants' Summary of a meeting with the Mayor occurring November 11, 2011.

9. The Mayor provided to the EDC a recap of the status on providing teen center activities for Mount Airy. The teen center will be open every other Friday from 7:30 – 9:30. During the first night of activity they had approximately a dozen kids, with other kids turned away because of lack of permission slips from parents. This teen activity is held at the Mount Airy elementary school.

10. Kelly Ziad presented a proposal to consider contributing to a “Main Street Road Map” brochure being developed for identification of main street businesses in various towns. Funding for this effort includes a state contribution, Carroll County contribution, and contributions from individual businesses (\$125 ea), along with the town contribution. After discussion it was agreed that the town should contribute up to \$1,000. Specific accounts for the town contribution were not identified.

11. The next meeting is scheduled for 25 January 2012 at 7:30 p.m.

12. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

**Minutes reviewed and approved with one correction in paragraph 5 on 25 January 2012**