

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (EDC)
TOWN OF MOUNT AIRY
Minutes of 06/24/2015 Meeting

Attendees:

Andrew Williamson – Current Chairman
Michael VanSant
Frank Dertzbaugh
Bob King, Council Liaison
Paul Clay – New Chairman
Bill McCullough
Zach Peters
Donnamarie Needle
James Linton

Also attending were Ken Phebus, Town Council member; Melissa Thorn, town staff member; Pat Rockinberg, Mayor; and J.A. Burke, Mount Airy Messenger.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. at Town Hall.
2. Minutes for the EDC meeting of 27 May 2015 were approved with the addition of Donnamarie Needle listed as attending the meeting.
3. Melissa Thorn provided her staff report highlighting events planned for July to include Fireworks on 3 July, farmers market in full swing every Wednesday and the Fireman's carnival opening the 3rd week of July. She reported on her planned participation at the MML convention to be held at the end of June. She also reported on the development of a resume for a Main Manager for Mount Airy, with the planned resume to be placed on the Mount Airy web site. She announced that the town has received one application for funding assistance under a Facade Grant program, which is being worked for processing to the State of Maryland. Melissa reported that every first and third Thursday during the summer, downtown businesses will be putting on an event titled "Summertime is Wine Time" as an effort to bring people downtown. Bob King reported that the town is working with the developer of the Prospect Mill project to develop a grant proposal for funding assistance from a Community Legacy grant program for funding support. He made a proposal for the EDC to recommend support for this grant proposal which would be conveyed to the Town Council when the considered the grant proposal. The EDC unanimously voted to make such a recommendation with one abstention.
4. The annual election of a Chairman was held with Paul Clay voted unanimously the Chairman for the next year, with him assuming the Chairmanship at this meeting. Bill McCullough will continue as recording secretary for the EDC.
5. Bill McCullough reported he and Paul Clay participated in the 2nd annual Joint Commissions meeting held on 9 June 2015. Along with other commissions, the EDC

reported on activities that are being addressed by the EDC. Activities cited included participation in an annual business card exchange in December, development of promotion materials for Mount Airy, discussions on the possibility of taking advantage of the fiber optic program being developed by Carroll County and providing for public WIFI for Mount Airy, He also cited developing support for Center Street and improved downtown parking, support for development of mixed-use zoning and support for the development of an office park employment center concept and to recognize that the availability of water will impact future development. He also reported that the EDC is supporting an effort to work with local businesses to develop a marketing strategy for the town. In an open session after the commissions reported on their activity concerns/comments that the EDC might consider addressing included looking at a process to set of a revolving loan fund to support small businesses, working with others (e.g. Parks) to look at bringing in community center activities to the town, and possibility establishment an incubator for small businesses in Mount Airy. Frank Dertzbaugh suggested setting up a business counseling center where new businesses could get help. This item has been suggested to be an agenda item on future commission agendas.

6. Melissa Thorn reported that approximately 200 market surveys have been sent out to businesses in Mount Airy and that Melissa Wilcox will be compiling the responses and will provide a written report. Melissa Thorn will be contacting businesses to ensure they received copies of the survey. The August meeting of the EDC will address developing a strategy if an assessment in August indicates that follow-up is necessary to get responses.

7. Melissa thorn mentioned to the EDC that there is a www.centurydiscovermountairy.com campaign developed by Century of Mount Airy that is promoting Mount Airy and suggested members might want to view it.

8. Nothing is happening with Fiber Optics in Mount Airy, but the item will remain on the agenda for future meetings.

9. Status of Center Street development will continue on future commission agenda. At the present time the Planning Commission is preparing a draft mixed-use development zoning, which commission members feel should be reviewed by the EDC before submission to the Town Council.

10. Parking alternatives will continue to be an agenda item for the EDC.

11. Creation of an Office Park Employment (OPE) Zone ordinance by the Planning Commission is continuing and will be discussed by the EDC at future meetings as necessary.

12. The annual report to the Town Council was reviewed and recommend for submission with the inclusion of two additional statements related changes in location of Caboose because of fire/safety concerns and notation that the business card exchange supported by the EDC resulted in raising \$2,400 for the Chamber of Commerce scholarship fund.

13. EDC members were reminded that the town is considering alternatives for the Flat Iron Building and it was suggested that the EDC might get involved in consideration of economic viability and options for the Flat Iron Building. This will be item on the next EDC agenda.

14. The EDC meeting scheduled for July is being cancelled due to the Carnival that week. The next EDC meeting is scheduled for 26 August 2015 at Town Hall to start at 7:30 p.m.

15. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes approved on 26 August 2015