

## Meeting Agenda

**Date:** February 23, 2021

**Subject:** Avery County Economic Development Advisory Committee

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION** – For at least one more month we will use the same meeting format as last month, with Phillip Barrier, Dennis Aldridge, Susan Siirila and I meeting in the county administration building and the rest of our committee joining virtually. That said for those of us in attendance we will need to be in compliance with COVID-19 social distancing, face mask and all other similar COVID -19 guidelines.

**The meeting will come to order.**

1. Approve and or amend the January 26<sup>th</sup>. Meeting Minutes.
2. **Unfinished Business:**
  - a. Ken to provide a progress report on our Web Site Development Project, with potential additional comments from Melynda Pepple and/or Jerry Moody.  
Also as someone old enough to have received my 2<sup>nd</sup>. COVID-19 shot on February 12<sup>th</sup>. - at our beautiful new Community Center, I would like to congratulate and compliment all the Avery County agencies & individuals who worked so hard to make this program run so efficiently – WELL DONE!
  - b. Kate Gavenus re. Main Street America in Newland status/progress update.
  - c. Eric Berg - presentation follow-up re. quality of life and tourist investments. NOTE: This presentation has been postponed until such time as our EDC again meets in person.
  - d. Other?
3. Phillip Barrier updates & new Bojangles', O'Reilly Auto Parts. Other new business news?
4. Dave re. Newland strip mall property development status.  
Ken re. Ridge Ranger Services – junk removal [referred to Allen Cook], Structall.
5. **New Business and/or other issues to address:**
  - a. EDC support of a county Occupancy Tax.
6. **Agricultural sub-Committee Report [Jerry]:**
  - a. News and/or updated information on the kill & chill project and the means by which Avery County can support this undertaking.
7. **Education sub-Committee Report [Susan, Dave & Ken]:**
  - a. We will consider resumption of our Junior Achievement program when it is COVID-19 safe.
8. **Marketing sub-Committee Report [Melynda]:**
  - a. Availability of the Avery County Chamber of Commerce's 2021 "Business & Visitor Guide".
9. **Future discussion and/or action topics:**
  - a. ?
10. What have I/we missed – questions, concerns, other?
11. **Next meeting** – Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Is there any objection to closing the meeting? Hearing no objection, the meeting is adjourned.**

**NOTES:** (1) Opening & closing instructions in **bold** are now in compliance with "Robert's Rules of Order", 11<sup>th</sup> Edition.

**PREVIOUS MEETING NOTES:**

1. April 29, 2019 combined EDC/BoC meeting review. For the record our suggestion list was:
  - a) The development of an Arts, Craft & Agricultural Products Market. Such a facility appropriately marketed would serve all of Avery County.
  - b) Pitch to gated community members our Avery County business opportunities and county needs, in the hope of enlisting their interest and/or support.

NOTE: Susan has made an excellent suggestion - "Next time, instead of calling it a joint meeting, what if we call it a 'presentation' to the BOC. We could break the hour in half & in the first half hour, we could share info on what we have accomplished. Then, give the second half hour for feedback or talk time."

2. Previously Phil Trew, NC Works and Rebecca Bloomquist, High Country Council of Governments have offered their assistance with grant writing - as has Kate Gavenus [many moons ago]. Is investigating grants something we should be recommending to the Board of Commissioners?
3. At the October 28, 2019 meeting a motion was made & passed extending the EDC Meeting times from 6:00 to 6:30 PM, on those dates when the committee has a guest speaker.

**Reminders:**

1. Retaining Employees Workshop – to be rescheduled when it is COVID-19 safe.
2. Allen Cook, Mayland Community College Small Business Center continues to offer assistance programs & services to help business owners understand & apply for grants & loans.