

Tues, April 28, 2020 - Virtual - Conference Call

April Meeting Notes:

Economic Development:

Emily McCoy reported applications are being accepted for EIDL loan and PPP program. There will be a Department of Commerce program coming up and details will be sent to members. Gov. Hogan announced a 3-step program to reopen the economy. Kent County is developing a grant program to award \$1000 to up to 65 small (less than 4 employees) businesses in the county. Details to follow in the next week. Jim mentioned Peoples Bank can do PPP loans. Lodging is an essential business that did not need to close. The federal government is releasing funds to counties. Details to follow.

Tourism

Bernadette Bowman reported surveys show vacationers want to come 90-120 days after reopening. They will be driving, not flying, within 300 miles and we are a target destination. Tourism is working on positioning in print, digital and social media re-starting in June. Messaging will be: "When the time comes to travel, come to Kent County." Maryland Heritage Area grants are available for 501C3s. The Department of Health has recommendations for cleaning and safety. They are attached below from Economic Development.

Town of Rock Hall

Bob Resele stated town leaders are worried about interstate travel. Kent County now has the 2nd largest per capita cases of Covid-19 in the state. An extra police office will be on duty this weekend. Bob has talked to marinas and boat owners are not to be working on boats. The mayor and council will have a discussion on 4th of July festivities at Monday's meeting. Watermans' Day has been cancelled. Dawn Jacobs's letter can be found on www.RockHallMD.gov. The beach is closed and a 4 ft fence will be installed around the beach today.

Comments:

The Lions Club needs space to store items for their September Community Yard Sale. Contact Debra Woodruff-Capper if you have space.

The Lions Club will pick up and deliver medications for anyone needing assistance. Contact Debra Woodruff-Capper for assistance.

Bill Weldon commented that it will be difficult to get employees back off unemployment because they will earn more on unemployment. Also, the cost of business will be higher due to higher food costs. He is questioning whether to open at all this year.

Rick Carter said he is concerned about the long term effects on businesses in town. Ours are small businesses and may not survive.