

Tues, May 26, 2020 - Virtual - Conference Call

May Meeting Notes:

According to the call-in bridge statistics, 12 people called into our GRHBA meeting on Tuesday. The meeting was led by Suzanne Einstein and started at 9:00am.

New board members: Harriet Creighton, Ed Pickering, Meg Scott, and Bob Tacher were introduced.

Economic Development: Emily McCoy reported they received 129 applications for Kent County business grants. 69 have been authorized for payment; 15 are still in progress. EC is looking for more grants and programs to assist businesses with coronavirus-related equipment purchases and business modifications. Details to follow. They are doing promotions for Kent County in regional markets.

Tourism: Bernadette stated studies show people are looking to get out and travel. In Maryland, some towns are shutting down streets for restaurant outdoor seating. A study shared by Joanne Rich showed 60% of people surveyed would travel by car immediately; 90% by July 15.

Town of Rock Hall: Bob Resele noted there were lots of people in town this weekend and few problems were reported. They are waiting for Phase 2 to begin soon. Public bathrooms in the Village Shops are open; those in the Civic Center are closed. There was a discussion about removing the tape on the benches in town and replace with appropriate signs. Dawn Jacobs asked what businesses thought about transportation needs this season and attendees overwhelmingly said yes. Dawn reported the town had raised \$11,000 which could be applied to vehicle leases. Businesses in attendance stated they are willing to advertise to support as well. Mark Einstein suggested allowing golf carts like Crisfield does.

Main Street Rock Hall: Laurie Walters reported on the "Social Distancing Bingo" cards currently available at local businesses and the Yarn Bomb project going on with kids from RHES.

Feedback from Businesses on Memorial Day Weekend activity:

Ann Bovee said Mariners and Rock Hall Landing Marina are getting cancellations for 4th of July and Pirates & Wenches weekends, but daily and weekend activity is good. Java was down in sales this year vs. last year, but less than expected. Mark & Suzanne said they've had good activity for private cruises. Dawn & Jim said the campground was full and turning down reservations. Ann B. said customers are asking about events and requested town website be updated.

Dawn stated town activities (parade & Civic Center) for 4th of July have been cancelled. Fireworks are TBD by RHVFC. Jim Rich said Pirates & Wenches traditional celebration would be cancelled due to concern about too many people gathering. The P&W committee is exploring a virtual event with minor activities. Plans for next year continue. FallFest planning is underway and is still scheduled at this time.