

**Bath County EDA
PO Box 13
Report from May 13th, 2020 meeting
Warm Springs, VA 24484**

**May 13, 2020
Meeting Minutes
(to be approved at the June Meeting)**

Chair Joe Wood opened its regularly scheduled meeting at the Millboro Ruritan Club Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:00 PM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members in attendance: Tommy Black, Ramona Garcia, Pat Haynes, Tom Richardson, and Joe Wood; new members Shawn Puller and David Hahn were also in attendance.

Staff: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton and County Administrator Ashton Harrison

Guests: Marty & Susan Plecker and their attorney Jeff Adams, Sheriff Robert Plecker, Board of Supervisor member Eddie Hicklin, & Mike Bollinger (The Recorder), and Sue Ellen Black

Agenda – The previously distributed **original agenda** was modified to allow the guests to speak to the EDA members in the Public Comment section, and to add the newly created CARES Grant details and application process to the agenda, as well as to encourage our members (especially the two new ones) to participate in a tour of the nearby industrial park after the meeting.

Public Comment: Marty & Susan Plecker, along with their attorney (Jeff Adams) expressed a desire to revisit the noise issue emerging from Speyside. Sheriff Plecker echoed this sentiment because it is his department that gets called to the site on a regular basis for noise complaints. The Pleckers have invited EDA members to visit their property to witness the noise firsthand. No particular motions were made or passed.

Selection/Election of a New Secretary to Replace John Fischer:

A motion was made by Tommy Black (seconded by Pat Haynes) to elect Tom Richardson to be the new EDA Secretary, replacing John Fischer. Motion passed unanimously.

Legal Counsel Report

Nothing legal to discuss

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Haynes presented one for payment, a \$965 bill from Chris Singleton. Shawn Puller motioned to pay this bill and accept the report, seconded by Ramona Garcia and the report which was then approved by all.

Minutes of the previous meeting as previously distributed (and corrected at the beginning of the meeting) were approved unanimously.

Old Business: Economic Development Strategic Plan & Brainstorming

Since the ‘mural project’ was an outcome of previous brainstorming & planning sessions, it was decided to proceed to *New Business* for detailed discussions of a proposed mural here in Bath County.

New Business:

Mural Project

The idea of creating one or more ‘murals’ on the sides of buildings in our area has been bounced around at a couple of EDA meetings, but EDA board member (and new secretary) Tom Richardson laid out a proposal to fund the first mural on the side of the old Neil’s Small Engine Repair building (next to Webb’s Store), a mural that could easily be seen by traffic on route 39 as they go to and from West Virginia or Lake Moomaw. The site was given prime consideration because of this choice location, and because the building’s owner heartily approves.

This particular mural would be greatly simplified version of the Bath County Tourist Map contained in several of our advertising materials, supplemented by artist-painted versions of the images shown in the conceptual drawing shown below, and dovetails nicely with efforts being undertaken by the *Preservation Bath* group to add highway markers and other historical signage in and around Warm Springs & West Warm Springs. This mural would compliment the *Preservation Bath* efforts.

Mural Site #1

(Old Neil’s Small Engine Repair, Rte 39, next to Webb’s Store)



A rough estimate for this mural by Richardson was for \$3,900, but admitted that earlier conversations with the artist included efforts for a 2nd mural elsewhere in the county, and that this \$3,900 figure should be a 'not to exceed' estimate for this one mural based on the email conversations for two (2) murals; further discussions with the artist would increase the fidelity of this estimate for only ONE mural, as well as the final contents of the proposed historical panel to the left of the mural. Several ideas were proposed and discussed, and the proposal was tabled until more information can be gathered and other options explored. Motion to table this proposal (Tommy Black/2nd by Dave Hahn) carried unanimously.

CARES ACT Grant Application

Bath County has received \$361,000 from the Federal CARES Act. Our EDA board has been asked to support and participate in establishment of a new grant program meant to support local businesses in this current pandemic emergency. County Administrator Ashton Harrison asked EDA board members to volunteer to serve on a Grant Review Committee to help establish the grant application process and to select qualifying businesses for these grants. With the funds being proposed, it is estimated that as many as 36 local businesses could be supported if each of them qualifies for the maximum payout of \$10,000 (but specifics are still being worked). For example, if a business has already received money from the Small Business Administration (SBA) or from the newer Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), this would be a factor in the grant approval process.

Ashton Harrison asked that the EDA set up a small board to approve these applications once the program got underway, and asked for volunteers to serve on this board. EDA board volunteers include Joe Wood, Ramona Garcia, Shawn Puller, and Dave Hahn; although some of these names may need to be recused if they are involved with a business submitting an application for this grant. The EDA was reminded that no more than three (3) members can be involved in discussions such as this without making a public announcement of the meeting.

A motion was made for a follow-on meeting by Tommy Black (seconded by Pat Haynes & subsequently approved) to work on the grant award selection process, and that this follow-on meeting would be a continuation of this regular (May 2020) EDA meeting. The meeting is scheduled for 10:00am, Wednesday May 20th at the General District Courtroom in the County Administration building for further discussions, deliberations, and to finalize the application form (via email). Masks will need to be worn at this meeting.


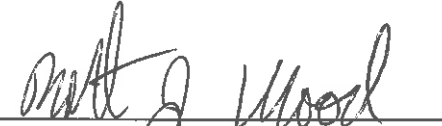
Public Comment Section (continued)

As a prelude to our tour of the industrial park, further discussions were held on the Speyside noise issue, and comments about a previously held meeting between County, EDA, & Speyside in the March thru May 2019 time frame were discussed, but with different recollections about EDA's involvement in future deliberations on this topic.

A motion was made (Tom Richardson/2nd by Pat Haynes & passed) to empower Chris Singleton to represent EDA in any future legal discussions on this issue. A motion to adjourn (for the tour; Tommy Black/2nd by Ramona Garcia) was made and passed, and the group proceeded to their waiting vehicles to travel to various sites in the Industrial Park.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tom Richardson, Newly-Anointed Secretary Joe Wood, Chairman

 X 

Tom Richardson,
Secretary

Joe Wood
Chairman