

**Bath County EDA Meeting 12 April 2023**

13 April 2023

Meeting minutes from the 12 April 2023 EDA meeting: to be approved at the next meeting.

Chairman Bruce McWilliams opened the regularly scheduled meeting in the Bath County Historical Society at 5:00 pm.

**Members Attending:** Joe Wood, Pat Haynes, Bruce McWilliams, Stephen Hiner

**Members Absent:** Emily Ellis

**Staff Attending:** EDA Attorney Chris Singleton

**Guests:** Austin Hall (The Recorder), Josh Ford, Jim Cherney (Cherney Development)

**Pledge of Allegiance:** N/A                      **Public Comment:** None

**Election of Secretary:** Stephen will act as interim Secretary until board positions are filled. Then the position of Secretary will be addressed.

**Agenda:** a motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Joe and seconded by Pat. The vote was unanimous.

**Approval of Last Meetings Minutes:** Bruce presented the February Minutes and a motion to approve was made by Pat and seconded by Stephen. The vote was unanimous.

**Chairman's Report:** Bruce discussed contacting potential candidates to fill vacant EDA positions. Pat and Chris have contacted potential Bath citizens to fill the positions.

Bruce received an email from O. Raines (Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission) on the challenges of rural living titled *VPM Life in the Heartland: Housing Series*. He will forward the email to all board members.

**Visit Bath** meeting addressed marketing and personnel. The Warm Springs pools are doing very well.

**Legal Counsel Report:** EDA attorney Chris reported he had not heard from the Virginia Land Company. He also informed the board there is no further development on the land ownership conundrum presented to the board at the last meeting by Gary Smith.

**Treasurer's Report:** EDA treasurer Pat presented his report detailing the financials for February and March 2023. Pat will contact Janet in the Administrator's office on how to handle the invoice from our last audit. Joe made a motion to accept report and seconded by Stephen.

**Board Comment:** Bruce introduced Jim Cherney. Jim is knowledgeable on what the EDA has (land) and the objective of obtaining workforce housing.

Jim will provide an unsolicited request after he's had the opportunity to do a feasibility study.

Jim discussed obtaining grants (State and/or Federal) with stipulation of no air b and bs or short-term rentals, and after 5 years, renter would have option to buy.

**Adjournment and Next Meeting:** A motion to adjourn was made at 5:59 pm by Joe and seconded by Pat. The vote was unanimous. The next meeting will be a work session and closed session held at 11:00 am on 26 April 2023 at the Bath County Historical Society.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Hiner, Vice Chairman and Interim Secretary

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Bruce McWilliams, Chairman

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