



Bath County EDA Meeting - 8 November, 2023

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

Members Attending: Joe Wood, Pat Haynes, Bruce McWilliams, Stephen Hiner, Emily Ellis, William Perry, Jonah Ford

Members Absent:

Staff Attending: EDA Attorney Chris Singleton

Guests: 10+ Members of the public

Pledge of Allegiance: N/A **Public Comment:** Available after new business discussed.

Agenda:

- Review of gifted land
- Discussion on hiring grant administrators.
- Omni Homestead request for distribution of accumulated 5% TOT for periods October 2022-September 2023

Approval of Agenda: Bruce presented the November 8th meeting agenda.

Approval of Last Meetings Minutes: Minutes from October 10th's meeting were approved.

Chairman's Report:

General conversation starting with Pat Haynes discussing what the tourism board is up to. Mark Spedoni, Manager at the homestead noted in their discussion that the Resort expects to see a 40% increase in revenue in 2024. The Chairman's report continues...

Legal Council Report:

- Currently going through the legal steps associated with the gifted land.

Treasurer Report:

- Additional fees are on the report this month due to the recent acquisition of the land.
 - Property Coordinates: 38.005850, -79.841697.

Board/Guest Comments and Discussion:

Grant Writer Discussion - Presented by William Perry

Presentation can be found here:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FIdIzaGzUjgxbVGHjBsdGr3mpgGuHdZPCsiI4UalniU/edit?usp=sharing>

- The discussion regarding the grant writer was well received by the group as a whole. The idea that Bath County is missing out on potential grants that can spur economic development did not sit well with the group, furthering the discussion on what this position would look like.

- Bruce McWilliams proposed a group of EDA members to further the research on what a grant writer would look like for the EDA. Emily Ellis, Jonah Ford, and William Perry all volunteered to spearhead this research effort.
- While the method of payment is to be determined, a pilot program or a beginning with a single grant was the group's consensus.
- More work will be done to figure out who will direct this position and who they will report to. Nonetheless, if done correctly, this position will pay for itself within the first year.

Omni Homestead request for distribution of accumulated 5% TOT:

- Between the dates of October 2022-September 2023 the Homestead has asked to share the cost for a report.
- Bruce motioned the release of funds depending on the process of the audit.

Additional Information.

- Stephen: Would Bath benefit for a tourism site, potentially in Mitchelltown. There are constantly people stopped by the Pools, reading the information, on the side of the road. A storefront may be a place where people can learn more about what to do in Bath Country - Maybe this is something the EDA could look into pursuing.
- Joe: We need to push to have the Cell towers up and running in Millboro. The sites are ready to go, there just has to be enough demand for the companies to install the proper equipment.
- Jonah: The Valley saw a grant opportunity to improve its equipment. Unfortunately, the deadline was too close to apply. This underlines the value of having a grant writer for the county - Someone who is aware of the different opportunities available to further business development.
- Community members from the Millboro Water Association came to the meeting after hearing about the proposed housing development.
 - MWA sells water to the PSA
 - The members of the MWA informed the EDA that there is not enough water to serve the prospective living units. "They'll be drinking out of a mud hole".
 - This is crucial information to know, as the infrastructure must be able to accommodate the additional dwelling units.
- Some community members followed up the previous revelation, stating that it would be valuable to research what surrounding communities did regarding recent apartment projects and potential grants

Adjournment and Next Meeting: A motion to adjourn was made at approximately 5:58 pm by Bruce and seconded by Stephen. The vote was unanimous. The next EDA meeting will be at 5:00 PM on 12/13/2023 or sooner if needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

William Perry, Secretary

x William Perry

Bruce McWilliams, Chairman

x Bruce McWilliams