

**Talbot County Tourism Board**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 12, 2018**  
**8:00 a.m.**

**215 Bay Street, Conference Room #1, Easton, MD 21601**

**I. Call to Order**

Chairperson Judy Bixler called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Board Members Present:** Judy Bixler, Angela Eade, Ian Fleming, Kelley Cox, Dolores Jones, Harold Klinger, Jeff Schneider, Al Silverstein, Cassandra Vanhooser

**Board Members Absent:** John Booth, Dolores Jones, Laura Price, Ben Simons

**Recording Secretary:** Kathy Megahan

**County Staff:** Sam Shoge, Miguel Salinas

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes from the May meeting were presented. Dolores Jones moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Jeff Schneider seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous vote.

**III. Guest Speaker**

- Q&A on Chapter 190 Code Update by Miguel Salinas, Assistant Planning Officer
- Chapter 190 (resolution number 1401) passed on September 11, 2018, after the public hearing. The bill takes 60 days to go into effect. A number of amendments were offered by Council members and several of them passed. Mr. Salinas summarized the topics that impact tourism.
- **Short-Term Rentals.** New applications will be accepted in January, February, July and August. The full-time position for the code enforcement and inspection has been filled. Talbot County has a contract for the STR Helper software for a 12-month pilot that will help manage compliance, licensing, and complaints for short-term rentals. The Short-Term Rental Review Board will become more active.
- **Event Venues.** The Chapter 190 update allows for two types of event venues — accessory to agriculture and accessory to a business. Agriculture-based event venues

must have a structure; outside-only event venues are not allowed. An accessory venue would be an existing hotel, administrative facility, educational facility. Limited to six temporary events a year.

- **Alcohol Production Facilities.** Alcohol Production Facilities have been approved as a new land use and will be permitted in all rural districts. Such facilities may include a tasting room. There is a potential for a new zoning district for water-based businesses.

#### **IV. New Business**

- **Talbot Tourism by the Numbers.** Ms. Vanhooser distributed the most recent tax numbers, a preview of the 2017 economic impact study, and visitation numbers for Talbot County's two state parks.
- **Earned Media.** The recent story in Southern Living was two years in the making. Ms. Vanhooser worked with the editor, writer, and photographer to place this story.
- **Open Board Positions.** John Booth's position has expired, but he has requested that he be re-appointed to represent the Bay Hundred. Dolores Jones has accepted a new position in Kent County as the General Manager of the Holiday Inn Express in Chestertown. We need to find someone to fill her position. She represented the restaurant industry.

#### **V. Old Business**

- Other projects update
  - World Star Boat Races - \$20,000 grant
  - Frederick Douglass Park on the Tuckahoe - \$50,000 grant
  - The Hill Community Project - \$50,000 grant coming to a close in November
  - Water Trails and Bike Trails Maps – both being reprinted currently
  - Stories of the Chesapeake Cookbook – in production

**VI.** Town Reports were suspended in the interest of a timely adjournment.

**VII.** The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2018, at 8:30 a.m.

**VIII.** Al Silverstein made the motion to adjourn. Harold Klinger seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:53 a.m.