

CASWELL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

AGENDA

November 18, 2024

1:00 P.M.

Meeting will resume at the Municipal Building

Call to Order	Alvin Foster
Welcome	Alvin Foster
Roll Call	Shirley Wilson
Approval of Minutes for October 2024	Alvin Foster
Approval of Agenda November 11, 2024	Alvin Foster
Guest: Jon Weninger---National Modulars Jean Mobley-Requested by Tony Smith	
Old Business	Alvin Foster
EDC Update:	Tony Smith
Interim County Manager	Renee Paschal
Deputy County Manager	Melissa Williamson
PCC	Dr. Senegal
CCCOC	N/A
Town of Yanceyville	Alvin Foster
Ag. Update	Travis Hoesli
Town of Milton	Shirley Wilson
Tourism	N/A
Caswell County Schools	Mrs. J. Gwynn Superintendent (Designated Staff Member) Letter of Support for Jean Mobley
New Business	
Other Information	Open to All
Adjourn	

CASWELL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

September 09, 2024--Minutes

CALL TO ORDER: Alvin Foster at 1:00 p.m.

Members Present: Alvin Foster, Jackie Jeffries, Emily Buchanan, Shirley Wilson, Tony Smith, Ruby Graves, Elin Claggett, Travis Hoesli, Jason, Holt Finch,

Zoom:

Members Absent: Jillian Medlin

Welcome: Alvin Foster

Roll Call: Shirley Wilson

Approval of Minutes: September 09, 2024, Minutes, Ruby Graves motioned to approve the **September 09, 2024,** and Ruby Graves seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Alvin Foster: Asked everyone to Review the Agenda for additions or deletions. Ruby Graves motioned to approve October 14, 2024, Agenda and Shirley Cadmus seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Mayor Alvin Foster stated we have a presentation today:

Guest: Jon Weninger---National Modulars Could not make it today. Will keep him on the agenda until he can make it.

Guest: Amelia Foster: Executive Director of Caswell History Speaks- Rosenwald Schools

Old Business: N/A

EDC Update- Tony Smith

- + Received notice last week from Piedmont Triad Region Council that they will hold a digital Inclusion meeting October 15, 2024, location will be decided later. Broadband and Housing in Caswell County) Encouraging all leaders to be there. A brochure will be published soon.
- + Project Eckard plans are moving forward, looking at moving the location, encounter some rock at the Pelham Industrial Park. (Explained) Will move closer to HWY 29. This will open the way for the sewer lines for the PCC project to be installed in the new corridor.
- + Talked to Mrs. Word, Chairperson for facility in Pelham, moving forward and she is working with the state on Grant Funding.
- + Update on Broad Band: In the process of signing five contracts—1 for Aldolf which is complete, three separate contracts for the Great Grant (2 with Spectrum, one with Bright Speed) one producing Spectrum. Should see Spectrum all over the county.
- + Emily Buchanan stated that the Company doing the Digital Inclusion called about using their facility.

County Manager-Scott Meszaros

- + N/A no updates

PCC: Dr. Senegal/Emily Buchanan

- + **Dr. Senegal** is in another meeting.
- + **CEAD Project:** Phase 1 is through the first part of a three-part state constructional approval process. Moved into Stage II which is called Design and Development.
- + Architect and Construction manager are working through the documentation for the state instruction office.
- + Construction is scheduled to begin right now. Timeline June 2025--Occupancy is scheduled for July 2026
- + Greenway to have classes Predesign packet (new sign, solar powered lights and QR code)
- + Foundation Office is working to start raising money for Phase II Project (Education Building)
- + BLAST Program (afterschool program) for Elementary age students to help boost interest in the Ag program. (Stoney Creek, North Elementary, Home School Association and one in Roxboro also.
- + Enrollment across both campuses is at a ten-year high.
- + High Dual Enrollment at the High School
- + New Nursing Cohort in January 2025
- + Finished renovating the Health Science Lab
- + Approached by Alamance County Community Service Agency

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Jillian Medlin—N/A

- + Going ahead with the Hoe Down September 28, 2024---9:00 to 7:00

TOWN OF YANCEYVILLE: Alvin Foster/Kamara

- + Will be putting fiber optic boxes in the sidewalk in the downtown area and will be finished by the Hoedown.
- + End date to be completed September 20, 2024.
- + Upgrading Sewer Plant progressing
- + Remove dam off Foyers Creek—Request for qualification go out of Friday. Grant from NC Department of Public Safety

AG UPDATE: TRAVIS HOESLI:

- ✦ 25-30% loss Flooding and Drought---Farmers decimated
- ✦ Impact economically on the county
- ✦ Collaborating with Farmers on Insurance letters
- ✦ Ag Venture Grant Program apply up to 8 or 9 thousand.
- ✦ Hoedown--Ag Expo

Tony Smith introduced the guest: Jonathan McCain

- ✦ Shared slides
- ✦ Goal is to help rural areas grow.
- ✦ Get people to stay in Yanceyville.
- ✦ Tourism Dollars
- ✦ Outdoor Recreation
- ✦ Interventions to Grow

TOWN OF MILTON: Shirley Wilson: N/A

- ✦ Town of Milton officials are applying for Grants for replacement of Grinder pumps.
- ✦ Constitution week September 21,2024
- ✦ Milton will Celebrate Great Trails State Day on October 19th, 2024, Incorporating the crossing of the Dan River in 1728
- ✦ William Byrd surveyed the Virginia NC Border as well as Wayne Bailey
- ✦ Milton Merchants has chosen October 26, 2024, to celebrate Autumn.

TOURISM/NA

CCS: New Superintendent has been notified of the EDC meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

OTHER INFORMATION: Elin Claggett

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

comments during Meeting October 14, 2024

DILLARD EDUCATIONAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

DEEDS walkthrough on Sept. 19, 2024, was impressive. The historic Dillard School in Yanceyville is being transformed into Senior Apartment Living spaces. Approximately 50 apartments are the size of classrooms, incorporating original structures such as blackboards, windows, hall lockers, gym & auditorium. Each apartment has a unique – not cookie cutter – design. There has been brief discussion of adding a pool for residents & possibly community courses, via PCC, such as lifeguarding.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT’S “LISTENING TOUR”

On Sept. 24, 2024, the new Superintendent, Ms. Joanna Gwynn, invited 10 stakeholders to participate in a “listening tour”. Only 5 community members showed up, including 3 parents. Concerns about school safety were a primary parental concern. Unfortunately fist fights at the middle and high school have occurred almost weekly this school year. Last week, a video circulated and involved a staff being taken to the ground. The NC General Statutes expulsion policy whenever a staff or student is at risk has not been enforced in the past. Rates of criminal acts and bullying are twice the States average. New metal detection machines are being installed at NL Dillard this week but will not stop fist fights. Coupled with “D” ratings for every school on the State’s report cards, this impacts economic development. CEOs & industries do not want to enroll their children in these schools when considering moving or starting businesses. There are some positive programs such as BLAST program, agribusiness, college credits and trade course are available via PCC instructional resources. A new superintendent and new board members will hopefully orchestrate positive changes.

CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL & AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT - PHASE I

PCC’s Building, Facilities and Grounds committee will meet tomorrow in Roxboro. A presentation regarding CEAD delays, costs, and construction plans for Phase I that consists primarily of a Food Hub building and farming plots will be discussed. The new easement corridor for utilities will probably be discussed.

YEAR OF THE TRAILS

This past month the Veterans worked many days to rebuild bridges along a 2-mile trail that connects Yoder’s Market, the Flying Disc Clubhouse and the Senior Center. The TDA promoted this trail and other trails as a means of Economic Development in Caswell. Last year, the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) had reiterated the trail systems and natural wildlife as a prime resource for economic development & tourism in Caswell. Milton’s newest trail and celebration are wonderful. There is also a trail system one planned in a later phase of the CEAD project.

VETERAN’S DAY

Ceremony on Nov. 11th @11:00 will honor Veterans. The guest speaker will be US Air Force Major General, Steven A Schaick (Ret). May want to consider rescheduling November’s meeting

Adjourn: Alvin Foster adjourned the meeting Motioned by Shirley Cadmus and seconded by Jackie Jeffries

Minutes submitted by: Shirley Wilson, Secretary