

**Economic Development Commission (EDC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, June 23rd @ 9:00 am**

**Present:** Mayor Howard Long, Chairwoman Terri Packard, Ron Humbel, Natoma Vargason, Tiffany Ahalt, Dana Healy, Diana Palmer, and Town Manager Paul Mantello.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM, by Chairwoman Terri Packard.

Roll Call and Introductions took place.

**Minutes** of the May 26th meeting were reviewed. Motion by Vargason to approve the minutes; second by Ahalt; minutes approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Secretary Humbel presented the Treasurer's Report. Vargas motions to approve minutes; second by Ahalt; motion passes.

**Presentation – Appalachian Trail Community Program w/ John Canan:** Canan presents ATC Program, via Go-To-Meeting. Canan informs there approximately 50 communities, along the trail. Applications for ATC Designation begins at the Community Level, goes through public government bodies, and is reviewed by the ATC Board. Canan likens the application process to a long ship voyage. ATC Designation means leveraging the Town's public offerings with the Appalachian Trail. Vargason stresses the importance of connecting the AT to downtown, via a connector trail. Hikers walking down South Mountain, along Alt. 40, is very dangerous. Ahalt likens the ATC Designation to the "Canal Town" model and asks Cana if ATC collects data about hikers, that can be leveraged to help the EDC better understand the market. Canan informs that data is available and can be forwarded. Long brings up Dan Spedden's trail design and the option of a shorter route, through Fox Gap Preserve. Palmer offers the idea of installing a hiker rest stop, as an attraction to lure hikers into the commercial district. Mantello asks about the availability of an economic impact study and Canan informs there's no data available, but that Boonsboro should be the first. Cana details the requirements of earning an ATC Designation. Packard thanks Canan for the presentation and projects a submitted application for ATC Board review in September. Ahalt to locate Spedden's trail plans and provide to commission members. Vargason motions to create an ATC Subcommittee, to work on the logistics of building a connector trail. Healy seconds the motion. Motion is approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Main Street Planters:** Packard asks when staff will begin watering planters. Mantello informs they'll begin, when tasked.
- **Downtown Beautification Project:** Mantello informs Mike Van Fleet has been unresponsive, regarding the DTB Project. If unresponsiveness continues, Mantello informs EDC will have to look at new options. Palmer informs she has connections with multiple local landscaping companies and would be happy to make introductions.
- **Networking Breakfast Series:** Mary Ann Burke recommended as speaker, by Vargason. Long recommends Ron Bowers, President of Goodwill. Bowers is interested in opening a branch in Boonsboro. Long informs Legion is prepared to host EDC Breakfast and informs the budget was approved by the M&C. Packard requests a copy of the budget be provided to each member.

