

BIC Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2019, 3:30 – 5:00pm
FITCI @ ROOT 118 N. Market Street

BIC Members Present: Richard Griffin, Tom Lynch, Dwayne Myers, Tom Mullineaux, Jim Racheff and Rick Weldon

Other Attendees: Michelle Day, Margaret Nusbaum and Katie Stevens

Welcome: Katie Stevens

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from July 25, 2019 were unanimously approved with no changes (Motion – Rick Weldon, 2nd – Dwayne Myers)

Diversification Strategies in Agriculture (Katie)

Katie discussed the current projects OED is working on to support the Agriculture community including the upcoming Great Frederick Fair. The Office of Economic Development is a sponsor of agriculture education and kids tour at the Fair, as well as the Winery, Distillery and Brewery Showcase. OED also sponsors the Agriculture Education Grant along with the Agriculture Business Council which awards five education grants \$1,000 each to non-profits with the goal of educating youth about agriculture. Lastly, there are four awards presented each year at the Fair for Farm Family of the Year, Agricultural Business of the Year, Agricultural Advocate of the Year and Young Farmer of the Year.

County Executive Gardner held an agriculture viability roundtable in the Spring. The discussion resulted in the following list of concerns from the agriculture community: preservation of agriculture, promoting the Farm Link program where older farmers can rent their land to younger farmers to continue the operations, Video Services promotional ads including “Share the Road” with farm equipment, a Value-Added Ag Facility similar to the FITCI concept (the details are yet to be defined), Planning & Zoning acreage minimums, and making the Planning & Zoning forms and applications easier to complete.

Wrap Up

The next meeting will be held Thursday, September 26, 2019.

Submitted by: Cindy Harris, Administrative Assistant, OED