

# Antrim County

## Economic Development Corporation

Mission Statement: Retain, expand, and promote County-wide economic growth and stability.

**May 17, 2016**  
**Minutes**

Members present: Dawn LaVanway, Mike Allison, Jan Bassett, Sherry Comben, Pete Garwood, Dave Heeres, Kathy Peterson, Bonnie Robbins, and Veronica Welter  
Members Absent: None  
Others Present: Mike Crawford, Janet Koch

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Dawn LaVanway, President of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC).

**2. Public Comment**

None.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Mike Allison, seconded by Bonnie Robbins, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2016 as presented. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**4. EDC Revised Bylaws**

Janet Koch, Associate Planner, reviewed the minor changes to the EDC bylaws. It was noted that “Section 4. Fee” would be changed to “Section 4. Bylaw Review.”

**Motion by Dave Heeres, seconded by Pete Garwood, to approve the revised bylaws of the Economic Development Corporation. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**5. Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)**

Ms. Koch gave the EDC an overview of a paper she’d submitted for a master’s degree level class titled “One Strategy for Economic Growth in Antrim County,” which proposed the concept of a county-wide CVB. Mike Crawford said he could start a CVB discussion with Shanty Creek’s General Manager. Pete Garwood said he could assist with that discussion.

**6. County Website Activities**

The EDC discussed adding meetings regarding county-wide economic activities to the County’s website. Mr. Allison suggested encouraging the local groups to be more proactive in getting their meetings placed on the website of their local chambers of commerce and the local units of government and reassessing the need to add these events to the County’s website in six months or a year. The EDC agreed that there was a lot of economic activity in Antrim County of which most people weren’t aware.

It was the consensus of the EDC that an annual report summarizing their 2016 activities should be presented to the Board of Commissioners in early 2017.

**7. Public Comment**

The EDC discussed the possibility of workforce housing projects in Antrim County. Ms. LaVanway said the construction on Main Street in East Jordan was progressing; she added that the Landing on Lake Charlevoix's South Arm would be reopening soon.

The EDC discussed the various airports in Antrim County. Ms. Robbins said a new wine-tasting room in Alden could be opening soon. Ms. Peterson said renovations at the restaurant at the southeast corner of M-88 and US 31 were progressing and that the hotel on the southwest corner had recently built a number of new small cabins.

Mr. Garwood said he would have staff call to see if it was still possible to get tickets to the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance Schmooza-palooza event on May 19 for any EDC members who were interested in attending.

Ms. Koch said Dr. Sarah Nicholls of Michigan State University would be making a presentation regarding tourism on June 23 at two venues in the County, one in Elk Rapids and one in Bellaire or Mancelona. She would provide details as soon as possible.

Ms. Bassett presented letters of resignation to Mr. Garwood and to Mr. Crawford, effective after the August meeting (**see attached pg. 3**).

Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Antrim County EDC/BRA  
Pete Garwood, Antrim County Administrator  
Mike Crawford, County Commissioner  
May 17, 2016

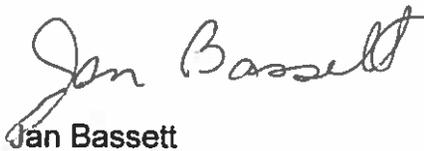
Dear Pete, Mike and EDC/BRA Board of Directors,

Consider this my resignation from this Board effective in August 2016. We have purchased a home in Florida, and will be making Florida our permanent residence at that time.

It has been an honor to be part of this organization, and I have enjoyed working with all the great people involved, and having the opportunity to represent the Village of Elk Rapids for the county.

I do have a recommendation to represent Elk Rapids on this board. Andy LaPointe, DDA Chair has stated an interest and will be completing the necessary paperwork for appointment soon.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve on this Antrim County Board.



Jan Bassett  
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231-409-6579

My phone and e-mail will stay the same, my Florida Address is:  
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The Villages, Florida 32162