

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - October 19th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), R J Dwyer (vice-chair), Jack McInnis, Matthew Nelson, Geena Savage and Susanne Hofmeister

Members of the Public: Fran McMillan (harbor merchants) and Mark D'Onofrio (chamber of commerce), Matt Elder (Untold Brewing)

Old/New Business:

- The meeting minutes from September 2020 were approved.
- EDC Room Occupancy Grant Program was approved 10/20
 - Scituate Inn applied for this grant for \$7249.08 and was approved. EDC will pay and will be reimbursed for this. Sue will discuss this with town treasurer Nancy Holt.

Humarock: Jack

Jack tried to connect to business owners and sent out phone numbers, and dial in access codes to meeting, but he got no response. Sue will ask Brenda O'Connor to help to connect to Humarock business owners.

Scituate Harbor: Fran

In Scituate harbor the holiday lights will go up early this year, but no definite date yet. Plans for First Fridays are still in discussion, problem will be crowd control. Uncertainty, if band stand will be accessible for holiday events, because a big construction project will be done in the harbor, and construction company will occupy Cole Parkway. Sue will contact Karen and will try to get more information about this.

We hope to have a plan to light up North Scituate Village and the Harbor for the holidays, but we are still figuring out the costs and feasibility.

Scituate Loves Local: Sue

They are working on a new campaign for the holidays: Shop Local. It is planned to be a big social media campaign to get residents to do all their Christmas shopping in Scituate. Take Out Tuesday, is another project they are working on. A design is in progress. Take Out Tuesday should get residents to buy a take out, but also to buy a meal for somebody in need. That could be done in form of a gift certificate. They are working on this with local charities.

Greenbush: Matt Elder

Visit from the Chronicle to discuss: One Tank Gas. This is an initiative to show people where they can go with one tank of gas, what things they can do in this range of neighborhoods (restaurants, local beers, shops, etc). Untold Brewery is planning on donating money to Mad

Love and donating the profits of a dog toy shaped in a form of a beer can to the animal shelter. Business is going ok. They are still distributing their beer, but everybody is at 25% to 50% capacity. They are in talks with the Board of Health to define what prepared food is and how they can implement this into their business. Matt Elder is connected with BirchBarn Design, Riverside, and Oro.

Sue got news from Kim Steward from Scit Comm Christmas and they had many suggestions to help support local business. One of the suggestions was to produce a 1 to 2 minute video of similar to "main streets and back roads" that could provide some much needed boost for businesses in Scituate.

North Scituate Village: Susi

Tom McBrien (McBrien's Diagnostic Repair) is trying to get funds to clean up the old Jamie's Pub site. Tom talked to the town and got the okay to do work on the land and he talked to Ralph Constantine, the owner of the property. The owner wants to hold onto the property and waits for sewer to come to NSV and then he wants to rebuild a restaurant there. He agreed to have his site cleaned up by Tom and that it could be used by the public. Tom got an estimate from a contractor. It would cost \$5000 to clean up the site, fill it in, spread loam and hydro seed it. Tom also got someone who could build 3 wooden picnic tables for \$450. He is now looking for funds.

Mark D'Onofrio argued that he sees a problem in getting funds from CPC or other town committees to clean up a private property. He also discussed that the chamber of commerce is willing to help good business people, but that Ralph Constantine did not rebuild after the fire and that he did not clean up the site properly and that NSV took a huge hit in business success without a restaurant there. Mark would be willing to help him to get a business rebuild there, but not to clean up his property.

Paul raised a red flag to use the private property publicly. If you open your property to the public you become liable if something happens. It will be hard to get insurance for these issues.

We all agree, that the site should be cleaned up soon. Our next steps will be to see if there are any tax liabilities on this property and if the foreclosure rumors about Ralph Constantine are true. We will also find out, if the town has an abatement ordinance in place, which could force property owners to clean up their properties.

Visitor Center: Geena

In an effort to revitalize North Scituate Village the EDC built a sub committee to create a visitor center for Scituate using the old WPA in North Scituate Village. Committee members are Staci Carey, Brenda O'Connor, Susi Hofmeister and Geena Savage and Fran McMillen. We are so happy we could get Fran on board, because he brings so much knowledge from his boat shows and business in the harbor to the table. We meet every Tuesday at 5 pm. Brenda is working on a slide show presentation for this project to be presented at the CPC meeting on November 2nd.

With the the feedback from CPC, Sue will be presenting the project to the Board of Selectmen on November 17th. With Sue's and Geena's second term coming up, we want to built a governing board for the visitor center. This way, the visitor center will be guided, even after Sue and Geena have left the EDC. The governing board will function like the advisory board for Widow's Walk. It will consist of representatives of business groups and cultural groups. And the board will make sure that Scituate is appropriately presented.

We have to find out how much money is needed to bring the WPA up to code, make it ADA compliant, etc. Sue will send out the final presentation to EDC members for input and guidance before the CPC meeting.

Fran went to the Visitor Center in Plymouth today and got a lot of information. They have almost the same building, foot print as the WPA building. They have a bathroom for men and women. Every wall in there is made up of members. They sell wall space to franchises, too. They are very well organized and exceptionally friendly and involved. They are a great example and we can learn a lot from them and they are willing to help us.

The Chamber of commerce would like to get involved in the Visitor Center, too.

The Visitor Center hopefully opens on Memorial Day 2021.

North Scituate Rezoning:

The work is done and it is ready to go in front of Town Meeting. It was scheduled for March 2020, but due to Corona it was cancelled. It is now scheduled to go to Town Meeting in April 2021.

North Scituate Sewer: Paul

Paul attended the Cohasset sewer meeting last months. The Cohasset BOS and the sewer commission talked about their plans for the sewer situation in Cohasset. Paul got the feeling that Cohasset is not interested in working with any other town on this. They are talking about getting an ocean outfall permitted, and that this will solve all their problems. Paul got in contact with the engineer, who conducted the feasibility study for the regional sewer project. And she doubt, that an ocean outfall will be permitted anywhere. And that this solution was off the table long before. But Cohasset is not interested in expert knowledge. This means for Scituate, get an independent solution to bring town sewer to North Scituate Village. Karen wanted to set up a meeting between Paul and Kevin Cafferty. But Paul did not hear from Kevin. Paul wants to find out, who at the town is working on getting sewer to NSV.

Matt brought up a story about the plans by the MBTA to cut back services for the South Shore, including no commuter service after 9 pm. This would effect Scituate in a dramatic way in the future, when people won't work remotely anymore. Matt will try to get more information about this.

Next EDC meeting: November, 16th 2020
Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Approved 11/16/20