

**Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - November 16th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM**

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

**Members of the Public:** Matt Elder (Untold Brewing), Amy Linnell (ABC Reading Adventures), Seth Pfeiffer (Scituate TV)

**Jamie's Pub in NSV:**

It is too great of a liability for the town to invest money and make it a public space. But, we could try to improve the look of the fencing around the property. Maybe, buy canvas and have it printed with greenery or nice advertising.

**NSV Re-Zoning:**

Trying to get it on to the Spring Town Meeting agenda. Maybe, a public meeting before in January. In the meantime, we are still learning a lot from the Greenbush bylaws and we will implement those changes in the re-zoning of North Scituate. Finalizing the proposal for the warrant for the town meeting in the spring. We will have more information about this in December 2020.

**MBTA service cuts to Greenbush and the ferries:** Matt

\$480 million deficit due to pandemic in 2021. The commuter rail ridership is down to 13% of pre-pandemic and the ferry is 12% of pre-pandemic, the ferry is averaging 7 riders per boat. They propose to cut the Hingham and Hull Ferry completely and cutting commuter rail service after 9 pm and close the Plymouth station and to reduce 20% of red line during peak times and 40% off peak time service reduction. These are not permanent shrinkages and they will expand their services after the pandemic, if ridership grows. But they also acknowledge that it will take 1-2 years of re-hiring and training of staff to get back to the pre-pandemic service level. This will effect the businesses crowding the MBTA and Ferry stations. The housing market will also be impacted. There are several grass root organizations active trying to save the services: Save the Ferry, Save the Greenbush, Save the Boat.

**Old/New Business:**

- The meeting minutes from October 2020 were approved.

**NSV:** Amy Linnell (ABC reading adventure)

No holiday stroll in NSV this year. We want people to go shopping local, take advantage of Cattivo and other shops. We will restart our monthly meetings with business owners in January. Amy and Caitlin Munro are in charge of this meeting.

#### Scituate Harbor:

The Scituate Harbor merchants are having a meeting tomorrow morning and Fran will give us an update on this next time. They try to generate some traffic. There is a new bakery at the harbor. Blackbird Bakery moved into the old Cryo place and the owner is a teacher at SHS. A few of the merchants did a live instagram first Friday a couple of weeks ago. The baker was there too and Arlene from Hiberian and they were really enthusiastic.

#### Greenbush: Matt Elder

Greenbush is quiet. Rivershed and other small restaurants are struggling with the new Corona regulations. Untold Brewery is slowing business down, too. BirchBarn Designs are gearing up, they have the two busiest months of the year. Matt will reach out to the restaurants in Greenbush to make them aware of the “take out Tuesday” initiative. We would love to get more restaurants involved. The Drew Company is getting closer to start building the apartment complex in Greenbush. The Stockbridge Landing Development is under way.

#### Scituate Loves Local:

We are working with a small group of businesses and some are resistant to help. Huge division between business associations and the chamber. We are trying to make sure, that they all realize that they are stronger if they work as one. We want to be ready when business can resume in summer or fall, whenever it will be. We are also working on updating the SeaScituate website. Bill Blake will contact RJ to work with him together. The chamber website will be updated, too. We have somebody on ScituateLovesLocal to work on both sites. Then, we can post all events on these sites. We also want to put the SLL signs up again when we have another big push.

#### Visitor Center: Geena

Sue shares her screen and shows the Visitor Center presentation. After we had the meeting with the SeePlymouth Visitor Center, our approach will be more regional, instead of only promoting Scituate. It will connect all the towns of the South Shore all the way to Plymouth and we would get input from the neighboring towns and we could all support each other through cross marketing. Brenda O'Connor put all our vision together in the presentation. The location of the WPA building is perfect, with a big parking lot and the connection to the playground. The building itself looks great inside and juts needs a little work outside. North Scituate Village is a perfect location, because it is a gateway to the North and if we regionalize it, it would be perfectly located close to 3A. The Irish Heritage Trail may be located at the Visitor Center, too. They got \$15,000 from the Irish government to work on the Heritage trail and we would benefit from the connection. We can't increase the tax base in Scituate, but we can work with what we have. Plymouth is very successful. They were able to build a \$40 Million town hall with meal tax money alone. We have a lot of work to do, but we are aiming to open the visitor center in May

2021. This idea is not new, Susan Phippin tried to do this in 2011, but they were unsuccessful. One of their problems was to provide staffing. In our case, we have Linda Hayes from the Council of Aging, who will provide the main staffing for the center. Another idea would be to combine it with the Scituate High School community work. The Visitor Center could also be Switzerland for all the different merchant groups and unite all these different groups. Funding will be one of the next steps. The first step would be to present it to CPC and if we don't get money from CPC, maybe EDC could give some money.

The Visitor Center should be open from Memorial Day until Labor Day. We are meeting every Tuesday and everybody is welcome.

North Scituate Sewer: Paul

September 21st 2020 sewer meeting in Cohasset: There was no enthusiasm for a regional project. Karen Canfield, Kevin Cafferty and Paul had a discussion of the plans for sewer for NSV. They all agree, we need our own plan, but we are still open to work with Cohasset. But in the meantime we are going forward with our own plan. Kevin is in a phase now of continuing to look at the capacity and infiltration of seawater of our sewer plant. The cedar Point project should help with capacity. The smoke project going on in town right now is part of this evaluation. Rebuilding and fixing leaking pipes will help to free up more capacity. Kevin hopes to make some progress with the evaluation by this spring. Another big aspect is how you connect NSV to the sewer plant. There are some pipes in, but with some gaps. Kevin should be invited to present to EDC with maps and more information to get a better picture of where we are. There should be better communication from the town to its citizen about the sewer plan for NSV.

North Scituate Village: Susi

The banners for the victorian lights are ordered and we hope to get them up with the help of DPW before Christmas. The train canopy project has stalled in the last 6 weeks and we need help to get the communication up and running with the town again. The first step is completed, the cement work and the electrical work. No bids went out for the ceiling work and the benches and table were not ordered, as planned.

Next EDC meeting: January, 25th 2020  
Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

*Approved: January 25, 2021*

