

## **Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - January 23rd, 2023 @ 6:30 pm**

Committee Chair: Susan DiPesa

The mission of the Economic Development Commission is to enhance the existing business community, attract new business, attract new customers, and encourage redevelopment and new development as may be advisable in order to increase the Town's property tax revenues, income, job base, and overall economic health.

**Date:** January 23rd, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

**Attendees:** Sue DiPesa (chair), Susanne Hofmeister (co-chair), Paul Bartkiewicz, Geena Savage, Fran McMillen

**Members of the public:** Karen Canfield (Select Board), Amy Linnel (NBA), Lynda Ferguson (Advisory), Chris Conner (Front Street)

**Call to Order:** Sue DiPesa called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

**Minutes of November Meeting:** Motion to approve meeting minutes from November made by Paul B., all in favor, November meeting minutes were approved.

### **Agenda:**

#### Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Review, approve and sign pending bills – Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue Di Pesa

#### Committee reports:

- SHARC - Paul B.
- Advisory – Linda Ferguson
- Scituate Visitors Center – Fran McMillen

#### Discussion: Business District Reports

- North Scituate – Amy Linnel
- Friends of North Scituate – Susi/Kate
- Greenbush – Matt Elder
- Scituate Harbor Business Association: TBD

**Chairperson Report** - Sue DiPesa: Susan Daileader is working on the new application process for the EDC funding. We sent a draft of it to Nancy Holt and Nancy sent the draft to Town Council. Town Council is new and they are a little bit behind to get through things, so we are waiting for their approval. The Beach Commission reached out to Sue for funding for signage, but we want to wait to hear back from Town Council first.

**Select Board Liaison** - Karen Canfield: The Select Board is reviewing the budget for fiscal 2024. The board wants to complete this ahead of time, to have enough time to do some adjustments. For example discussing giving EDC more money, because EDC is getting so well organized, especially with the new grant program. Because of the new application process, there may be more applications coming. April Town meeting is coming and the warrant is open and closing tomorrow (01/24/2023). The town sent out information to everybody about the community compact electricity program. There is a lot of information on the town's website <https://www.scituatema.gov/scituate-community-choice-electricity-program>. And finally, it is very likely that there will be an open seat on the select board, so everybody who is interested should think about it and be prepared.

There is still no progress for sewer in North Scituate. Scituate has the signed agreement from Cohasset and we will move forward, because we have the funds for the next design phase. Cohasset is finding itself with structural problems in their sewer system. Their plant has some major problems, so that might make them more amendable for the regional option.

GATRA is changing its model. Instead of going around in a loop, they are having a vehicle waiting to be called for a ride, like an Uber. It is free for the month of February and then it is \$2 a trip.

#### **Committee Report:**

- *SHARC* - Paul B.: Paul is giving a presentation about the Pier 44 mission/SHARC. [https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3781/f/uploads/scituate\\_harbor\\_pier\\_44\\_park\\_cpc\\_meeting\\_december\\_12\\_2022.pdf](https://www.scituatema.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3781/f/uploads/scituate_harbor_pier_44_park_cpc_meeting_december_12_2022.pdf). Property was purchased in 2010 with MBTA money, condominiums were planned there. After online survey in 2011 the decision was made to use it for recreation and open space. In 2012 it was planned to demolish the building and to develop a park. After a hiatus of 9 years and plans to host the senior center and the library, there was a new survey of 1030 people in 2021. A park with a small building was wished for, but due to coastal resiliency, a new building is not feasible. It would have to be elevated to 18 feet from current 9 feet. The old building is in a bad condition and any improvements or remodeling would force the town to bring it up to code, including the elevation to 18 feet. No enclosed building is possible on this site, instead a covered pavilion for up to a 100 people is planned together with an observation deck that would be on piers out in the water. SHARC applied for \$300,000 to CPC and Corey got \$100,000 from MAPC. This money should cover the pre-construction phase.
- *Advisory* - Lynda Ferguson: The Advisory Board was busy to approve and revise budgets. News from Front Street: Silver Storm relocated to North Scituate and shares a space with Good Roots.
- *Visitor Center* - Fran: EDC and SVC had invited to a community forum at the Norton

Center in December. The organizations in town showed a lot of interest and another forum is scheduled for February 16th 2023. Sue and Fran are working on advertising, sponsorship and grant application for the SVC. While Sue and Karen are in talks with Christen Poole to work on social media and to maintain the SVC event calendar. Lynda Ferguson talked about See Plymouth, and how they install weatherproof kiosks for about \$7,000.00. She will get more information for SVC about this.

- *North Scituate* - Amy: It was a bad stormy night for Christmas in the Village event. Pretty Bar moved into Amy's old space on Gannett Road. And the kiosk should get installed at the playground in the spring.
- *Friends of North Scituate Village* - Susi: The Friends applied for more funds from CPC and this was approved by CPC in December. The Friends have to attend the Advisory Board meeting on February 9th and the Select Board meeting on February 28th to answer possible questions for more funding. The Friends will work with Beautification on planters for the train canopy project in North Scituate.

**Other Business:**

Next EDC meeting: March 20th, 2023

**Adjournment 7:39 pm**

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 03/14/2023

Approved 4/24/23

