

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - January 24, 2022 @ 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 24, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), Susanne Hofmeister (co-chair), Paul Bartkiewicz, Jack McInnis, Fran McMillen,

Members of the public: Amy Linnell (Liaison NSV), Seth Pfeiffer (SciTV), Kyle Boyd (Director of Planning and Development), Karen Canfield (Select Board), Freya Schlegel (Water Resource), Lynda Ferguson (Advisory Board)

Minutes of Last Meeting: Paul makes motion, Jack seconds it. Meeting Minutes from November 22, 2021 approved: all in favor (after roll call).

Call to Order: Sue DiPesa called the meeting to order on 6:31 pm.

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Approve the EDC's meeting minutes - November 2021
- Review, approve and sign pending bills - Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue DiPesa

Director of Planning Board: Kyle Boyd

Committee reports:

- SHARC - Paul B.
- Widows Walk - Jack M
- Sister City - Geena S

Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy/Caitlin
- Scituate Harbor - Fran
- Greenbush - Matt Elder
- Friends of North Scituate - Susi/Kate
- Scituate Chamber of Commerce - TBD

Other Business:

Chairperson Report: Sue DiPesa: 2022 is started by discussions about how to improve the EDC website and the Sea Scituate pages on how to do business in Scituate. We are using other towns as models, like Dedham and Easton. Those webpages are used as guides to enhance the Scituate websites. Sue hopes for involvement of EDC members. Kyle is already working on cleaning up

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the Town of Scituate homepage. Sue wants to see every EDC member to do at least one thing outside of the EDC meetings. Geena needs to step away from the Sister City group, we need somebody to step up. We need somebody for the webpage enhancement.

Director of Planning Board - Kyle Boyd: Working on several grants. Submitted two statements on interest for engineering, design and permitting for the sandhill pump station to make it more flood prove. For Front Street there is sewer investigation going on. All these were done through the municipal vulnerability preparedness (MVP), videoing of the downtown sewer infiltration, so we can see how much we could increase the capacity our treatment facility. The town has 400K for the re-development for the Cole Parkway and is now trying to apply for grants, who will match those existing funds and turn it into \$800.000. Applying for one stop for growth (a new grant program), you submit statements of interests for different projects, and they direct you to where top actually apply. Applications were submitted for North Scituate Village design and expansion of sanitary sewer system, for Egypt Beach sanitary sewer upgrades and the Harbor walk feasibility and design study.

Karen Canfield: Regional Sewer update: The engineering and design application for North Scituate Village Sewer expansion does not limit the town, to explore other ways to expand sewer in North Scituate. The Scituate Select Board had a joined meeting with the Cohasset Select Board and the Cohasset Sewer Commission last week. The town of Scituate is on a dual track for the past 18 months. Constantly talking to Cohasset, but also pursuing an independent solution with our own treatment system. Cohasset wanted us to give an answer by the end of January, if they are interested in the regional sewer plan or not, the same they say since the last 4-5 years. Karen's opinion on this that Cohasset will not be interested and that Scituate should go with their own resolution. We are still waiting on the final reports form the Cedar Point INI savings, but it looks very promising for freeing up capacity for NSV. The final draft to discuss whether to lift or not to lift the moratorium on marihuana establishments in town were received today, which will go before town meeting. This is going before all the different boards (Select, Planning and Advisory). EDC should also look into it. One part is to lift the moratorium: to allow production and selling of marihuana and the second part is the zoning for it. The Planning Board has a meeting about marihuana zoning this Thursday.

A question was asked about the Old Jamies Pub property in NSV. The town placed his property on tax lien. And he also lost his liquor license. Karen wants to look into this matter and see, if the town can work with the owner about cleaning up the site. Another question was asked about zoning bylaws or who can start looking into who can start the process to make him clean up his site. Some towns (Boston, Cambridge) have fines for business which stay empty for an x amount of time. Other towns notice property owners of maintenance issues and if owner does not comply the municipalities come in and clean it up and put the cost as a lien on the property.

Committee reports:

- **SHARC - Paul:** Kyle is in the lead for funding the pre-construction activity. The town wanted to hire MAPC to do the RFP, but the cost were too high. Doing RFP themselves. The commission had put all the elements together they want to see. Still waiting on MBTA decision if funding could be used from construction fund for design costs. No connection from Scituate to MBTA, now it is time to call legislators for help.

Widows Walk- Jack: Nobody bid on the restaurant. Rent is \$3000 a month including utilities. Alan Caparella from Mother Anna's is looking at it today. Three years lease, you have to buy furniture. Kitchen is new and will be supplied. The club house will be ready by mid- to end of January. The problem might be to find staff for the restaurant, everybody has problem finding help.

Discussion Business District Reports:

North Scituate- Amy: Holiday stroll was very successful. It was outside and the plan it to be having it outside in the future, too. Funtastics took over the Comcast building and Kate Walsh finished her bridal service in the Outfitter space. So, all the empty spots are now filled and up and running. Planning is going on with the next Fall for Scituate. No events in the spring.

Harbor- Fran: Salt Cave is doing very well, Joy is closing for the month of February, very tough time for business in the harbor. Summer was really good, but January was tough with Omikron. Scituate Tavern is not open for lunch, Mill Wharfs is closed on Tuesdays.

Humarock: Based on the restaurants, Humarock is very busy. The Voyage is doing a great job with events.

The Friends of North Scituate: No news on the bid from the town. Upcoming meeting with Kyle. It was discussed if we could use the Train Canopy Project to get reimbursed by the Covid Relief Fund.

Next EDC meeting: February 28, 2022

Adjournment 7:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 02/08/2022

Approved 2/28/22