

Economic Development Commission – Meeting Notes 1/28/2019

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), Ann Burbine, Paul Bartkiewicz, Geena Savage, Robert Dwyer, Colin McNiece

Guest: Brad Washburn (Planning Director), Fran Mcmillen (member of Harbor Business Association Board), Linda Ferguson (Chamber of Commerce; Inn at Scituate Harbor), and Michele Wood (Harbor Business Association; Mill Wharf)

Old/New Business

- Preparation for the boat show is going great – 40,000 people expected to attend
 - EDC previously paid for a “Scituate” film; Fran requested access to use at the show

Liason Reports

- **Greenbush/Driftway – Geena Savage**
 - Attended first meeting of the Widows Walk Golf Course Committee. Expressed priorities of the committee with EDC, and potential funding opportunities. Specifically, want to improve frontage, the club house, and parking lot. The hope is that with an improved “product,” a refreshed marketing campaign can make the golf course attractive to new clients and corporate outings. Benefits of a renovated club house were discussed, including how it could be used for community and private events.
- **Harbor – Robert Dwyer**
 - Harbor Cultural District
 - Summer Bandstand Series – seeking funding for signage
 - \$5,000 grant to pay the bands
 - Wednesday nights during the summer
 - Why Wednesday?
 - Thursday = 3 car shows during summer
 - Friday = recreation department
 - Lack of parking on busy weekends
 - Bringing music back to the band stand
 - Sister City – West Cork, Ireland
 - \$175 allocated from EDC budget for signage
 - The sign will be made of vinyl, and is intended for use at workshops and events for the long-term
 - Will be used at St. Patricks day parade and celebrations
 - Brad discussed placing the “Sea Scituate” logo on the sign to show EDC support of the group
 - Delegation from Scituate is going to Ireland this June 10-18th
 - Winter Film Festival
 - Will be raffling pendants given to the delegation from Ireland last year
 - Harbor Business Association

- Presented a list of expected financial needs for all events this year, with price figures from prior years. This was requested by the EDC liaison to inform the EDC about how it can sponsor events in town.
- EDC members questioned the Harbor Business Association about where the funding ordinarily comes from for these events, without sponsorship
 - Dues from members
 - Fundraising
 - Grants (Massachusetts Cultural Council)
- Discussed the need to include “Sea Scituate” logo on any and all signage and marketing as required for funding
- Michele Wood asked if there was a breakdown sheet of how the EDC spends their budget each year, or where she could find that information
 - Geena explained that the information is included in each meeting’s minutes, and proposed a breakdown sheet that would be available online for others to see, focusing on transparency for both groups seeking funding, and the EDC.
 - EDC discussed possibilities with an updating document for each funding approval
 - Discussion of meals tax, how it affects local restaurants, tourist opinion of the local tax.
 - Approximately \$10,000 on average from the meals tax per year placed in stabilization fund
 - Discussed EDC stabilization fund – need to go to town meeting for approval to use funds
- Discussed government regulation in the Harbor, specifically competition between like businesses
- **North Scituate – Ann**
 - Name change to Friends of North Scituate
 - Wilbur’s ice cream – closed
 - Discussed potential for rehabbing inside
 - Second yarn shop has entered North Scituate
 - Discussed need for both – crochet v. knitting; provides something for everyone
 - Discussion of Jamie’s returning
 - Has continued to renew the permits and has 3 tight tanks
 - Discussed pumping costs for the 3 tight tanks and marketability of the location
 - Discussed liquor license – retained because of rebuilding plan
 - Discussed issue with snow removal in North Scituate and placement on sidewalk
 - Discussed free parking at MBTA station in North Scituate
 - Not everyone is aware that this parking is available
 - Limited public parking in general for North Scituate businesses
 - Gannett Road public parking
 - Discussed possibility of a Food Truck Park, that would be in North Scituate from Memorial Day to Labor Day
 - Where? MBTA parking lot next to WPA building

- Food trucks need licenses – why have we not seen many in town?
 - Boston food trucks are out year round
 - Potential for sales to beach goers
- Why did the farmer's market move?
- Discussed 501c status for emerging business associations in town

Heritage Days – Linda Ferguson

- Presented a spreadsheet of expenses for hosting Heritage Days using figures from 2016, 2017, and 2018
- General consensus that the town wants to see more Scituate in Heritage Days. Linda discussed her efforts over the last 4 years of trying to include more Scituate in the event
- Expenses necessitate outside vendors
 - Fixed costs – DPW, Fire, and Police (typically \$14,000)
 - Fire Department offers CPR instruction
 - Sheriff Department offers finger printing
- Discussed “historical tour” and lack of participation on the shuttle, resulting in its elimination from the event
- Art Alley – working with the Art Association
 - Community art work hung in the library
- Music change – something for everyone with a focus on local bands
 - Good quality stage – gives younger and newer bands the opportunity to perform at a quality venue
- Discussed lack of oyster shucking competition
 - The restaurants are already so busy from the increased crowds, and cannot afford to pull employees away for the competition
- Saved money this past year with marketing by using social media advertising rather than focusing on print advertising
- 2018 was the first time the EDC sponsored the event
 - Discussed EDC budget with allocating \$10,000 as a fixed cost to support the event every year, and how it effects EDC budget as a whole
 - EDC discussed the promotional opportunities with sponsoring Heritage Days
 - This year we want Sea Scituate banner
- Discussed Chamber of Commerce vs. Harbor Business Association participation in planning and funding the event
 - Fran proposed putting together a poll with the Harbor Business Association to determine priorities, issues, and goals

Scituate Harbor Resiliency Study

- Grant application – focus on the Harbor for future potential projects
 - Energy and Environmental Affairs
 - Considering migration of the Harbor District (long term goals)
 - Need for public participation in the process
 - MAPC for additional funding
- Wednesday – Coastal Community Assessment Presentation; 630-8 PM
 - Will provide a recommendation based on interviews in the town performed by a third party

- No cohesion in current vision for the Harbor – need to come up with a plan
 - Priorities based on interviews: fix the Harbor, storm response, and managed retreat
 - Need a plan for Harbor District zoning
- Need for a multi department and committee meeting

Sea Scituate Directional Signs

- Ted Brovitz emailed and shared “priority” locations for directional signage, funded by the EDC, for wayfinding program. Locations based on prior meeting discussions
 - Appointed Paul as the delegate for future signage decisions
 - Approved using previously allocated funds for Priority 1 locations
- Discussed exposure for the town – using brown historical signs?
 - Need to talk with DOT and DPW
- Discussed \$9,000 previously allocated for a wooden directional kiosk in the Harbor
 - Discussed private vs. public land in the Harbor
 - Discussed alternative locations for kiosk
 - Concern with future maintenance and potential vandalism
 - If cannot decide on new location, need to use the \$9,000 for something else this fiscal year.

Planning and Development Updates

- Robert Dwyer discussed internet speed in the harbor and comments he has received from Harbor business owners
 - Discussed project in Humarock
 - Discussed harbor internet for Boaters, and the difference between being on a boat where there is service, vs. the dead zone in the harbor itself
 - Discussed impact on emergency response
 - Need more information – telecommunications outside scope of EDC
- Town Master Plan – due diligence phase with hired consultant
 - Need for public participation in the process
 - Start process after April town meeting
- Greenbush Zoning
 - Planning Board meeting – discussed reception as compared with EDC/Planning Department workshops
 - February 7 Planning Board Meeting – intend to streamline the message
 - Use comparisons of base zoning vs. proposed zoning
 - Last public opportunity to weigh in
 - Focus on tasteful development – not changing much, just want to make the town look nicer when new developments arrive. Give control and oversight to the town and its citizens over potential developers
- North Scituate Zoning
 - MAPC grant, looking towards potential for sewer in the future
- Regional Sewer Initiative
 - Originally began with representatives from the three towns. Has now expanded to include representatives from all towns from various department and committees. Hull and Scituate on board, need to convince Cohasset to join.

- Next meeting at the Cohasset Lightkeepers House on January 30th at 6pm.

Other Meetings

- Wednesday, January 30, 630-8 PM Coastal Community Assessment Presentation
- Thursday, January 31, 7 PM Advisory Committee meeting (Library)

FY 2019 Budget

- **Approved** \$175.00 to Sister City, West Cork, Ireland for vinyl sign
- Discussed how budget can be used, for what types of projects/events, and the dates to request for specific events

Approved 4/1/19

