

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - April 24th, 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: April 24th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Scituate Town Library

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), Susanne Hofmeister (co-chair), Paul Bartkiewicz, Susan Daileader

Members of the public: Karen Canfield (Select Board), Amy Linnel (NBA), Matt Elder (Greenbush), Susan Fiore (Chamber of Commerce), Berry Kurland, Howie Kreutzberg

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

Minutes of November, December, January and march Meeting: Motion to approve meeting minutes was made., all in favor, November, December, January and March meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Approve Minutes November 2022, December 2022, January 2023 and March 2023
- Review, approve and sign pending bills – Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue Di Pesa

Select Board: Karen Canfield

Committee reports:

- SHARC - Paul B.
- Waterways - Howie Kreutzberg
- Chamber of Commerce - Susan Fiore
- Celebrate Scituate - Sue Di Pesa
- Scituate Visitors Center – Fran McMillen

Discussion: Business District Reports

- North Scituate – Amy Linnel
- Friends of North Scituate – Susi Hofmeister
- Greenbush – Matt Elder
- Scituate Harbor Business Association- Michelle Wood

Select Board Liaison - Karen Canfield: Events in the town of Scituate are the Sister City annual meeting, the Town Meeting on April 10th and the upcoming Town Elections on May 20th. There are two candidates for one seat for the Scituate School Board, so go and vote. There will be also voting on John P. Connors memorial statue. Friends of John P. Connors created the John. P. Connors Memorial Project and will provide a statue worth \$ 1 Million privately funded <https://www.ameasureofaman.org/>. The Veteran's Advisory are in full support of this effort and recommended placement of the statue in town at the Lawson Tower Garden (Elephant fountain, soldier's memorial statue). Reviewing the site, brought the history back into everybody's mind. The Lawson Tower Garden was designed by Olmsted (the famous park designer, who also designed Central Park in NYC and Boston Common and many more). We should place a sign in Lawson Tower Garden and share this history with the public.

Susan Harrison is running for Toni Vegnani's select board seat. She is on the Zoning Board of Appeals and the chair of the Shellfish Advisory Committee. There are no news from Cohasset about sewer for North Scituate. Scituate is following the plan B, and fixing infiltration of our existing sewer system to free up space for North Scituate.

Chairperson Report - Sue DiPesa:

Celebrate Scituate brought together Untold Brewery and the Beautification Commission to have an event together on Ship Shape Day. The Greenbush merchants will have their own event: Get to Greenbush on Ship Shape Day.

Committee Report:

- **SHARC**- Paul B.: SHARC's funding request for CPC money was approved at Town Meeting. The Advisory Board initially voted against SHARC, but right before town meeting, they flipped their vote 5:4 in favor of SHARC. Over 1300 residents took part in the survey for the three different SHARC designs. Now, SHARC can enter Phase 3 and start the engineering and design phase, pulling permits, etc. SHARC will go again for additional funds from CPC, but will also try to get grant money.
- **Waterways** - Howie K.: We are still working on updating our Waterways website, after that is done, we would like to get the Waterways Website linked to the Scituate Visitors Website and DOCKWA <https://dockwa.com/explore/destination/pwcynz-tpg-scituate-harbor?form=transient>. DOCKWA manages everything and is an automatic reservation platform for boaters. 275 boats are coming in to Scituate harbor and we get 800 hits on DOCKWA. Every Dollar for a boat slip generates \$6 in spending in town. Scituate Harbor has everything boaters love: laundry facility, showers, hardware store, restaurants, etc. SVC should place their maps and cards at the Harbor Master Building, so boaters learn about the app and transportation abilities in Scituate.
- **Chamber of Commerce** - Susan Fiore: We should have a sign for public restrooms pointing to the harbor master building. We should discuss, if we could add portable bathrooms in the harbor for the season. Upcoming events in town are the Get To Greenbush Event on Ship Shape Day. BirchBarn Design took a lead to organize this event. Not all businesses take part, but a lot of them do: Kennedy's, Scituate Animal Shelter, UB, KitchenSpaces, BirchBarn, Cardigan's and more. Heritage Days planning is well underway. Tucker is

working on music, Christine from Salt Cave is on the committee. Heritage Days weekend will include the Luminaria on Friday and the boat parade.

- *Celebrate Scituate* - Sue Di Pesa: The Ship Shape Day Celebration is the ongoing event and we will work on some small collaborations with businesses and other committees.
- *North Scituate Village* - Amy L.: The NBA is having a meeting next week to plan an event for June. No vacancies in NSV and businesses are doing well.
- *Friends of NSV* - Susi H.: The Friends are working together with the Beautification Commission to clean up the space between the train canopy and the railroad fence. Weeds have completely taken over the gravel, and we are looking for a landscaper who can dig out all the gravel and dirt and fill it with compost and mulch. Beautification will fund this effort, while The Friends will coordinate the work. We are working on a letter to MBTA to inform them about the project and to the town of Scituate. Planting the area is planned for the fall. We are already working on ordering the outdoor furniture for the canopy, so the order can get out as soon as the funds are available on July 1st.
- *Cole Parkway* - Susan Daileader: Every full moon, Cole Parkway and the Mill Wharf Plaza is getting flooded. We got a grant of \$500,000 to get engineers and drones to look into this problem and offer solutions. The problem is, that the Mill Wharf is privately owned. This project is different from the Harbor Marina. That grant of \$2.3 Million was for the renovation of the Cole Parkway Marina, including new decking and boat slips. The harbor marina will open on May 15th.

Other Business:

Next EDC meeting: May 22th, 2023

Adjournment 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 05/17/2023

Approved: 6/12/23

