

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - May 18th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

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

Walk ins: Henry Yeh (Friends of North Scituate Village and project leader of the train canopy project)

North Scituate Train Canopy Project:

Henry Yeh talked about his frustration about the lack of progress on the train canopy project in North Scituate Village. He works together with Sean McCarthy from the Engineering Department of the Town of Scituate. The communication is very one sided, because Sean does not respond to email or calls and he did not get the bids out in November. After a meeting in March 2020, Sean finally drafted a bid and send it out, but that bid was only for the cement work and did not include the electrical work. Henry already got estimates from local companies (Lea Castello and Wood Electric), but Sean said he got no bids. Leo Castello made Henry aware, that in the current bid the electrical work was missing and Leo reached out to Sean, with no answer. There maybe other priorities in the town, then the train canopy project, but Henry would like to get together and get at least a timeline, when things can start. The project was already delayed by 6 months.

Sue DiPesa will talk to the Town Administrator about the project and she will also include Karen Canfield. The CPC holds onto the money, which was approved by the town, until invoices are to be paid.

Meeting Minutes from EDC meeting on April 27th 2020 were amended and approved by an anonymous roll call.

Liaisons Reports:

Scituate Harbor (RJ):

There were no meetings in the last month. Scituate Sister Community put scholarships and student exchange program on ice.

RJ received an invitation from the Friends of Bassin Beach Association to talk about the oyster farm project. Jack will try to attend that meeting.

North Scituate (Susanne):

No work on victorian lights or other repairs were done in NSV. Gannett Road is still not fixed in front of the gas station and Cosmos Caffee.

North Scituate Sewer Update:

Karen Canfield gave a short message, that the Cohasset Sewer Commission voted no on the regional sewer project. This was the plan 5.1, which would only connect NSV to the Cohasset sewer pipeline. The Cohasset Selectman were in favor for this project and the sewer commission were supportive in all regional meetings. But, they voted no, because they want to get more information from the engineers. Karen will provide a more detailed report about this at a later date.

Sue stays positive and thinks, that Cohasset will get called on by the state. This is a regional sewer project and Cohasset's sewer deal with Hull contains only a small part of Cohasset. This is not enough for Hull's capacity and Sue thinks, Cohasset has to deliver more.

Even if Cohasset will eventually agree to connect to Scituate's sewer, it will be an unforeseeable delay in the timeline for this project.

Discussion: EDC Budget:

Sue reports that we have \$25,000 left in this year's budget, but that we can't spend any of it. The TA Jim Budrow gives us only authorization to spend this money, if it is Covid related.

Scituate Loves Local update:

Sue DiPesa gives an update of the Scituate Loves Local campaign. Sue put together a group to discuss how to help local businesses to survive the Corona crisis and promote local businesses in town. She reported her efforts to the selectman and asked for \$5000 to foster this campaign. The Scituate Chamber of Commerce is donating \$1,500 and the North Scituate Village merchants are donating money, too. The project group has merchants from all over town involved.

The timeline for the campaign is: Tomorrow, the survey goes out to every merchant in Scituate. The Scituate Love Local campaign will start after Memorial Day and in June, yard signs and banners will follow.

The SeaScituate Website will serve as a platform for the Scituate Loves Local Campaign. Merchants will be able to put a link on the SeaScituate Website and promote coupons for new residents and other promotions for their business.

The Scituate Loves Local group works very well together under the leadership of Karen Canfield. Re-opening of businesses will start in different phases. Karen will help to work out each opening phase with the TA. RJ and Geena are on this group and are doing a great job. The group meets three times a week for a couple of hours and all persons involved show a lot of enthusiasm. They not only meet for all this time, but they also do the work. Everybody works together and this alone is a very positive effect.

This campaign will be one of the most important things in the town of Scituate for years to come.

EDC members, please look over the plan and decide if you could be of help on any level. Be ambassadors for this campaign.

Ruth Thompson from the Scituate Mariner will write a story about the Scituate Loves Local (SLL) campaign. This will appear after Memorial Day. SLL wants to support Scituate Community Christmas in their effort to pay a tribute to our veterans. That is why the campaign will start after Memorial Day.

Sue stated that the Scituate Loves Local campaign will last for the next 6-9 months, as long as needed. But the Sea Scituate Website will be there forever. The branding of Scituate Loves Local could be made permanent, too.

The Chamber of Commerce is offering webinars to local businesses at not cost. Social media is set up and ready to go, after initial launch of campaign.

The SeaScituate Website could become a virtual welcome wagon for new residents and realtors could promote this website to their clients.

This campaign will have a positive impact on the town of Scituate for a long time.

Bills/Invoices:

Sue got an approval from the TA to pay the design costs for the banners for NSV: \$810. The invoice is paid.

Next EDC meeting: June 15th 2020
Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm.

Date Approved: June 15, 2020