

**Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - June 15th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM**

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

**Old/New Business:**

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

**Discussion: North Scituate Sewer Updated**

There is not much update on the NS Sewer project, because the towns are having more pressing projects on their hands during the pandemic. There is still momentum to get the sewer project done, but only at a later time, when towns are working normal again.

**The Friends of Bassing Beach meeting:** RJ attended the meeting and reported the claim by the Sandy Beach association that the property, where the shellfish farms will be located, are not owned by Scituate. They cite colonial laws. There was also discussion about the increased costs for the town, and harbor master, because of the shellfish farm, but those costs would be covered by fees for the shellfish farmers.

Due to a Boston Globe article, a lawsuit was filed by The Friends of Bassing Beach Association against the Town of Scituate on May 26th 2020, because Scituate has no authorization to issue shellfish farming licenses in that location because it doesn't own or control the tidal flats where the farming would take place. Instead, the property is owned by The Friends of Bassing Beach and Douglas and Craig McLellan. The spokesman for the association is Timothy Davis.

To our knowledge, the Cohasset selectmen are not supporting this lawsuit against the town of Scituate.

**Liaison Reports:**

**• Scituate Harbor – RJ**

The closing of Front Street for outside dining was approved by most of the business owners. Strong opponents were the Music shop, the liquor store and The Inn. They claim, that not all businesses are accessible during closing off Front Street and that their businesses would be harmed. They are also upset, that they were not informed about the closure. This is not true, because to Scituate Loves Local committee members (Roy Coates and Judy?) went from door to door in the harbor and talked to the businesses about the plan. A member from the Board of Health went also from business to business talking about this and got and overwhelmingly support for this measurement.

Scituate Loves Local has different plans for different times. This was just the first step. They can't help all businesses, but they want to help as many as they can. Local retailers should try and stay open longer at all times, so that people get

used to it and take advantage of this offer. Right now, the local businesses close early, because they say, longer hours would not attract more business. They could also use signs to make people aware that they are open for business, too.

**\*North Scituate – Susanne**

Gannett Road was finally paved between the gas station and Cosmos Caffee. Sue got invoices for electrical work being done to the victorian lights and she reports that also the banner arms should be repaired. No work has started on the North Scituate Train Canopy Project. A new bid was written, including cement and electrical work. But, if the bid was approved by the town and if work can start is unclear.

**\*Humarock – Matt**

No news from Humarock, but Matt will get in touch with businesses. The Voyage, a breakfast place in Humarock applied for outdoor seating. Maybe Matt could get in touch with owner.

**Discussion: Scituate Loves Local Committee Report – Sue, RJ**

Scituate Loves Local got great response from everybody. You see signs pooping up everywhere and they are getting great support. In the future, Scituate Loves Local could transition to a general merchant association for all merchants in Scituate. In the meantime, the EDC will be the leader of it and will try to bring everybody together. RJ's idea of creating a box of items from different local merchants, worth \$45 each and put together by different committees of the town, took off. 25 such boxes/bags are planned. And the West Cork Committee is almost finished with their box/bag and add their advertisement and then these boxes/bags will be sold using Scituate Loves Local social media and the North Scituate store 143 will help sell these boxes. Initial funding comes from the chamber of commerce. Goal of this project is to advertise local businesses and committees in town. EDC bags will be used to box the items. Jack brought up some issues with the accessibility of the SeaScituate website and Sue will look into this.

The Chamber of Commerce is holding webinars and zoom calls to help local businesses. They are having a zoom call on Wednesday, June 17th at 9 pm with TA Jim Boudreau.

**Discussion: Budget**

The TA gave a report today in the town update and announced a budget cut of \$1.5 million. The EDC budget will be affected by roughly \$15K. That means our budget for next year should be \$30,000, which is great. With Heritage Days cancelled, our spending will be less next year.

Unclear is, if we can use any of the money from this year's budget. As soon as Sue will find out, we will have an emergency meeting to decide how to spend any remaining funds, if needed.

Next EDC meeting: July 20th 2020  
Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

*Date approved: August 17, 2020*