

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2023 @ 6:30 pm

Date: July 17, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Hybrid: Zoom/Town Library

Attendees: Sue Di Pesa (chair), Geena Savage, Paul Bartkiewicz, Susan Daileader, Berry Kurland, and Grace Gardner

Members of the public: Karen Canfield (Selectboard), Seth Pfeiffer (Scit TV), Amy Linnell (North Scituate BA), Shelley Swanson (Greenbush), Lynda Ferguson (Advisory), Ed Kelly (Parade Committee)

Call to Order: Sue Di Pesa called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

Agenda:

EDC welcomes public participation. The chair will recognize public input for 10 minutes allowing 3 minutes per person. Items not posted on the agenda cannot be deliberated per open meeting law. The Commission will consider items to be posted on a future agenda.

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Approve Minutes
- Review, approve and sign pending bills – Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue Di Pesa

- Approval of Grant funding application and contract
- Review of EDC priorities and commission member assignments

Select Board: Karen Canfield

Committee Reports:

- SHARC – Paul B.
- Cole Parkway – Susan Daileader

Business District Reports:

- North Scituate: Amy Linnell
- Greenbush: Shelley Swanson

Other Business:

Adjourn

Chairperson Report - Sue Di Pesa:

After a short introductory round, Sue welcomes the two new members Berry and Grace to EDC. The EDC's mission, which is to enhance existing business, attract new business and customers and encourage redevelopment of new development in order to increase the town's property tax revenues, income, job base and over economic health. According to the EDC mission, Sue outlines the priorities for EDC in this new fiscal year.

The goals of funding appropriate categories, improved communication, business owner outreach, engage with community leaders, continued support the Scituate Visitors Center and engaging with the redevelopment of Pier 44 and Cole Parkway fall under the mission. Our goals are aligned with the promotion of economic prosperity for the town, it's businesses and residents.

The breakdown of commission members is:

1. Grant application promotion and tracking: Geena Savage and Susan Daileader
2. Improve communication, business outreach and collaboration with business associations: Grace Gardner and Berry Kurland
3. Broad outreach for liaisons and foster a pipeline for future EDC Positions: Sue Di Pesa
4. Community leader forums: Sue Di Pesa
5. Support, promotion and reporting of the Scituate Visitors Center: Susi Hofmeister
6. The committees for the redevelopment of Pier 44 and Cole Parkway: Paul Bartkiewicz and Susan Daileader

Geena got an update from Kevin Kelly about the refurbishment of the band stand in Cole Parkway. They did get a structural engineer involved, put in new support columns and got a new floor. After painting, it looks really good now.

Selectboard Report - Karen Canfield: Selectboard had their annual retreat on July 13th and discussed where their focus is in the new fiscal year, before budgeting starts. The Selectboard directed the TA to incorporate in the budget design work for town sewer from North Scituate to our own town sewer. This means not, that the town abandoned the regional plan, but we plan our own solution in parallel, so that we don't waste anymore time. The second priory is what to do with the old Gates building. There are several proposals from affordable housing and the Selectboard will decide what to do. At the same time, they want to solve the problem how to direct traffic around the common. The third priority is to improve internal and external communication. Budgeting starts now. More visitors than usual in September in Scituate, including a delegation of 50 people from Ireland. Electricity bills are so high and other things make this year's budgeting more difficult. Roadwork is being done around town. Jericho and Oceanside are dragging on longer then expected. 3A will be dug up to put new waterlines in. Decision by the attorney general about the Cohasset Harbor water rights bylaw in Scituate waters invalidated the Cohasset bylaw. Scituate still plans to use those waters for water agriculture (oyster farms).

Committee Report:

- *SHARC-Paul Bartkiewicz*: SHARC is proceeding with phase 1 and 2 design work. This involves talking with the permitting agencies, if environmental reviews are needed, and looking into grant funding opportunities.
- *Cole Parkway* - Susan Daileader: The meetings were delayed for a month or two, because they were waiting for a drone study. These data were inconclusive, so they decided to proceed with the RFPs. After the decision which RFP is chosen, the design will be discussed to prevent flooding. It will include a bigger wall and brown water will be examined. Also, it will be discussed what to do with the connection to Mill Wharf. It will be a big challenge.
- *Greenbush* - Shelley Swanson: Since February 2020 Shelley met with Greenbush business owners to discuss how to celebrate the businesses in Greenbush. The pandemic hit, and they finally formed a committee this year. And they pulled together an event "Get to Greenbush" on May 8th this year. They had 15 partner businesses and everybody hosted an open house on this day. Lots of kid's events. They are already planning this event for next year, again together with Beautification Commission (Ship Shape Day). The new development across the Greenbush train station is called SkySail. They have 78 rental units, 160 parking spaces and roughly 9000 square foot retail space, they are currently renting a first floor retail and second floor retail/restaurant and a stand alone retail building. Rockland Trust is opening a new branch. Untold is opening their new location in Plymouth. The Sanctuary at Herringbrook is open, they have 60 apartment units. 7 award winners from Greenbush at Best of the South Shore by Southshore Life and Style. Gunther Tooties, (best eagles) Untold Brewery (best local beer), Lucky Finn (best local coffee), 143 studio (yoga), Little Steps Learning Center (best childcare), Inly School (best private elementary school), BirchBarn Designs (best arts and gifts). Runner up: Afterglow, Crossroad Sandwiches, Kennedy's Country Garden.
- *Advisory* - Lynda F.: No news from Advisory.

St. Patrick Day Parade - Ed Kelly: Ed manages the parade since 1999. EDC might be able to help with some expenses of the parade. Police and Fire details would qualify for EDC support. They are a non-profit 501c charity. Police and Fire details and DPW clean up are about \$12,000. They did very well with corporate funding this past year and they hope they do well again. EDC will send Ed the new grant application as soon as it is finalized.

- Next EDC meeting: August 21, 2023

Adjournment 7:24 pm

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 012/08/2023

Approved 12/11/23

