

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - July 20th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

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

Old/New Business:

- Approval of EDC's meeting minutes moved to next month's meeting
- No new bills to approve

Scituate Loves Local (SLL) update by Sue:

Reopening seems to be going well. SLL has been working well with businesses and organizations in town trying to help them make plans for events, problem solve and promote.

The newsletter is on hold. The information is changing so rapidly that it is better to release information thru social media.

The chamber has helped with the box program funding the effort and then being reimbursed as the boxes are sold. The box program is: groups around town offering to sponsor 25 boxes to be sold to the public. They are filled with gift certificates or products from local business to promote those businesses. The committee develops a theme and then makes the purchase of the same items to go into each box. The chamber has underwritten the initiative and it pays for itself basically. It's been a good promotion.

We've been very fortunate with our social media members of the SLL. They've been great and we've attracted others who are interested in helping. Sue thinks EDC will benefit by having more people engaging in our efforts to promote business in Scituate.

Fran McMillian who has been a big supporter of EDC has been great and put together a small waterproof bag to deliver to visiting boater.

The front street closings have been very successful. A few bumps but otherwise good.

Early in the campaign SLL did a business survey and formed an ambassador program. That group is now developing a script and follow up to that survey. That will be happening next week. SLL wants to stay in touch with businesses to find out how they're doing and how we can help.

The chamber has been planning some events to be held on the former heritage days week end. They're going to have a luminaria on Friday the 7th around the coast recognizing purple heart day as Scituate is a designated purple heart community. They are working closely with the Kim Stewart from the Veterans committee. They also plan to have a lighted boat parade with a blessing of the fleet. They're still working on a Saturday event. On Sunday they plan to have a bell concert at Lawson tower. There will be promotions of that event thru SLL.

Geena has been planning an Art Walk for Sunday Aug 16th from 1 to 8. Geena sees this as an opportunity for residents and businesses to present their unique creative talents to fellow neighbors and member of the community while being mindful of social distancing. There will be a map of different locations around town where artists or performers will be set up. Geena is working on controlling the number of attendees. More details to follow as Geena gets it all together.

It's been a challenge to come up with viable events that the both will be approved and are cautious about large groups in one place. But we know we're in this phase for the foreseeable future so it's made it a bit more clear about what we can do in the near future.

This week SLL is creating an event calendar for all events that are happening and it will lead to a social media content calendar where SLL will promote every event to keep momentum going for business.

Overall the SLL subcommittee from EDC is going well. Sue would like to keep this going until things are a bit more organized with the business groups. EDC is setting itself up to be the place to go to for business who want to present ideas so we can assist or guide them if needed.

Sue proposed that we consider covering the cost of some of the permits that the board of selectman have been waiving for groups to host events during this time. It aligns with our mission and most likely be approved by the bos for the expenditures and would offer EDC the opportunity to work with many businesses directly and allow us to foster good relationships with them to better assess their needs and what is missing in the business community. Overall I think this gesture would give us a good pulse on the business community for small investments. Also, I've inquired about expanding the number of commission members for EDC from 7 to 9 so that we can expand ideas, greater participation in the community and serve as liaisons to more groups. Does anyone have any thoughts on those two ideas?

Voting:

The EDC voted in favor to use EDC funds to cover waived fees by the bos for events depending on approval by TA and bos.

We also approved the general idea to expand the EDC members from 7 to 9.

Budget:

No budget update because the town is still working on budgets.

North Scituate sewer update:

As you may know the bos has identified their top priorities and sewer is number 2. Karen says that is a very near priority and that the bos is very serious about getting this done and have made that a clear direction for the town admin. There is an executive summary being prepared that Karen Canfield will forward to me outlining the steps to get there. Karen has been in communication with the new chairs of the BOS for Cohasset and Hull and they support the regional project. The challenge has been the Coh sewer commission. As of this moment, the Hull bos has sent a letter to Cohasset to let them know that if they decide to NOT participate in

the regional sewer project then Hull will not renew the contract with Cohasset. The contract will expire aprox. In 18 months. This will leave Cohasset in a very difficult position. Karen is confident that this will come to an agreement.

2021 EDC Goals :

- Tourism Office Location
- Community building re use
- North Scituate rezoning initiative
- Collaborate with the Chamber for unification of business groups

The items Sue has listed below are just suggestions. She would like to hear from others on the commission about what you'd like to see us accomplish. This is a plan that needs a special meeting . We talked bout having this meeting on Monday, August 10th. Sue will send out an invitation.

Other business/comments?

Susi brought up the North Scituate Village light post banners. We voted in favor to sponsor these banners, but we were not able to spend the money because of Covid-19. Sue will get the banners on next meeting's agenda and we discuss this matter on our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned 7:34 pm.

Date approved : August 17, 2020