

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - August 15th, 2022 @ 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: August 15, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Scituate Town Library

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), Susanne Hofmeister (co-chair), Susan Daileader, Paul Maduri, Fran McMillen, Paul Bartkiewicz, Geena Savage

Members of the public: Amy Linnel (North Scituate Business Association), Lynda Ferguson (Advisory Board), Bill Carey (SVC), Freya Schlegel (WRC), Karen Canfield (Select Board), Elaine Bongarzone (Chamber of Commerce), Susan Gallagher (Scituate Harbor Cultural District Committee)

Minutes of June and July Meetings: Motion to approve meeting minutes from June and July made by Paul Bartkiewicz and second by Paul Maduri, all in favor, meeting minutes of June and July were approved.

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

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Introductions and welcome
- Approve the EDC's meeting minutes - June 2022 and July 2022
- Review, approve and sign pending bills - Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act
 - United Site Service Northeast Inc. - Port-a-potty North Scituate Playground, \$677.90

Chairperson Report: Sue DiPesa

Select Board Liaison: Karen Canfield

Committee reports:

- Chamber of Commerce - Elaine Bongarzone
 - Funding Request
- Sister City - Ray Voelker
- SHARC - Paul B.
- Scituate Visitor Center - Fran McMillen (chair, SVC)
 - Funding Request - Bill Carey, Treasurer SVC

Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy Linnel
- Greenbush - Matt Elder
- Friends of North Scituate - Susi

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Selectboard Report - Karen Canfield: The town of Scituate has an open position for Town Planner. This position will be posted after the Special Town Meeting on September 19th. The most important and crucial article on town meeting is article 1, the new water treatment plant site. Water Resource Commission does excellent job with website for new water treatment plant and also with information for the public. Town sends out regular emails about facts and for answering questions about the new plant. The next WRC meeting will be on Wednesday, August 17th at 7 pm via Zoom. With the new water treatment plant, 30,000 to 40,000 gallons/day of sludge won't be going to wastewater treatment plant and will free up capacity for North Scituate Village town sewer. Cohasset has approved funding for design of regional sewer project, but this project will go slow. So, the town is still working on its own independent plan to sewer NSV. The main effort for now is to bring people to the Special Town Meeting on September 19th to vote yes on Article 1.

Scituate Chamber of Commerce - Elaine Bongarzone: The Chamber of Commerce got pledged \$20,000 for last year's Heritage Days, but got only \$5,000 from EDC due to budget cuts. Chamber of Commerce is asking for \$10,000 for this year's Heritage Days. Elaine submitted receipts for \$21,139.70 (mostly town services, including \$13,000 for police, \$6,700 for Fire Department, plus DPW services and port a potties). The total costs for Heritage Days is estimated by Elaine of about \$40,000. The Scituate Chamber of Commerce makes usually no money on the event and has to pay around \$1,500 in some years or gets a surplus of this amount. The question came up, why is Heritage Days done, if it isn't a fundraiser. The chamber states that the goal of this event is, to bring positive exposure and economic benefits to Scituate. A heated discussion broke out about the missing heritage in Scituate Heritage Days and the choice of vendors. Also the backlash on social media was briefly noted. Front Street was not swept the day before Heritage Days, and thousands of guests came to visit Scituate that day. We should have a structured meeting to discuss next years Heritage Days in advance.

Vote for funding request of \$10,000 for Heritage Days 2022 by Chamber of Commerce: Paul B. Makes a motion to fund \$10,000 for Heritage Days 2022 and Fran seconds it, all are in favor, funding request approved.

SSHARC-Paul B.: Paul is chair of SHARC. The existing Pier 44 building will be demolished and a park with a smaller building will be developed. Corey Miles, Patrice May and Karen Canfield chose the top three companies from the 8 bids the town received. A phase 1 study with public input will be conducted. Thursday, August 18th at 6 pm will be next SHARC meeting.

Scituate Visitors Center - Bill Carey: The SVC asks EDC to fund \$10,000 for annual cost of operation, which includes website maintenance and updating services \$3,000, social media consultant \$6,000, printed materials with graphic design services \$500 and search engine optimization advertisements \$500. Bill Carey provides a presentation about the 2021-2022 Operating Revenues and Expenses plus a report from the website consultant Sperling which highlights web traffic on the SVC website. Following this report, the EDC discussed future steps for SVC, including sharing an executive director with the South Shore Irish Heritage Trail, building a kiosk in the harbor using VOTEC students and staffed by seniors, the importance of See Plymouth memberships for Scituate businesses (Lynda Ferguson got a lot of hotel bookings from ads in SeePlymouth) and it was also mentioned that a grant would be available from the South Shore Chamber of Commerce.

Vote for funding request of \$10,000 for Scituate Visitors Center: Paul B. makes a motion to approve funding for \$10,000 for SVC and Paul M. seconds it, all are in favor, funding of \$10,000 for SVC is approved.

Scituate Harbor Cultural District Committee - Susan Gallagher: In a letter to EDC the SHCDC is asking for funding of \$4,000, \$500 for flags given out to participating businesses in the Art Walk and \$3,500 for fairy lights around tree trunks on Front Streets during the Art Walk. The SHCDC organizes the 11th Annual Art Walk in the harbor on October 7th. 15 to 18 artists participate and will be paired with local businesses. The EDC would like to support SHCDC, but the letter came to late and could not be put on the agenda for this meeting. Therefore, no vote can be taken today. The SHCDC should come to the next EDC meeting in September and bring more information about the flag design and the lights. There are lights for the trees on Front Street for the Holiday season, maybe those lights could be put up for the Art Walk, too.

North Scituate Village - Amy: The NSBA is planning a kiosk with a community bulletin for the North Scituate playground and they are also looking in to Christmas lights for NSV. The old Jamie's Pub site is still an eyesore in the middle of the NSV business district. Because this is a private property, letters should be sent to the private property owner Ralph Constantine: 12 Free St. Hingham, MA. The town can't do much about it, but we could go before the planning board and request a weed abatement, or a request how an abundant property in a business district must look like.

Friends of NSV: Susi Hofmeister and Roy Coates from the Friends had a meeting with Kneeland Construction and the TA Jim Boudreau and Corey Miles (project leader from the town) at the train canopy in NSV on August 4th 2022. The electrical wiring has to be moved before Kneeland can start. Jim Boudreau agreed to call a local electrician and have the wires removed in the next two weeks. Kneeland Construction plans to start working in two weeks and the whole project should be done on November 30th. Corey Miles informed the TA and the Friends that only \$200 are left in the budget for the train canopy project. That might not be enough to remove the wires and it is definitely not enough to order the lights and install those after the ceiling is finished. Jim Boudreau assures Kneeland and the Friends that he will find the money to do the work. CPC approved \$75,000 for the whole train canopy project in September 2019. The first phase including concrete work and electrical work, which was done in October 2019. The DPW refused to write a RFP for the remaining work and only did so one year later in December 2020. The timing was so late in the year and there was no communications with the project leaders, that no bid was received. The next RFP was posted in the end of March 2022. A successful bid was accepted in early May. Because of the pandemic the price for wood went up so much, that the finishing of the ceiling uses all the money which was left in the budget. The planned picnic table, benches and trash bins have to be priced again and the Friends will have to find a way to fund those. The Friends wrote a letter to the Select board demanding action on the former Jamie's Pub lot in NSV. They would like to meet with members of the select board to find a way to make the site safe and better.

Next EDC meeting: September 26th, 2022

Adjournment 8:16 pm

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 09/20/2022

Approved 9/26/22