

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - August 17th, 2020 @ 6:30 PM

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

Members of the Public: Mark D'Onofrio (Chamber of Commerce) Karen Canfield (Board of Selectman), Dave Cedrone (reporter from WATD).

Discussion: North Scituate Sewer Updated

Karen Canfield gave a brief update on the Regional Sewer Project. Hull can't wait any longer for a decision because they need to fill their capacity at their new sewer treatment plant. There will be two meetings in the next two weeks between the Board of Selectman and the Sewer Commission in Cohasset. By September 30th 2020 Cohasset will make a decision on their participation in the regional sewer project. The Cohasset Masterplan states the need to address nitrite in the Cohasset Harbor and one solution would be to connect all residents along the water to public sewer with the regional sewer project. Cohasset has the option to expand their old sewer treatment system or to make a deal with Hull. But they have to do something to get recertified. The decision should go on the fall town meeting in Cohasset.

In the meantime Scituate is working in an independent plan B.

Old/New Business:

- The meeting minutes from June 2020 and July 2020 were approved.
- The EDC is unable to add any new members to the committee by decision from BOS.
- We will establish sub-committees for certain projects and it will help us in the long run to recruit new members to the commission when the times come.
- We voted last month to cover fees for business for town permitting but the town has waived the fees so our intentions were great but not needed for now.
- The cost for the North Scituate Village banners of \$1568 has to be approved by the town administrator.

Discussion: Scituate Loves Local Committee Report - Sue Di Pesa

We recognize that this committee is likely to continue as long as the pandemic continues. We've had great success with many, very talented people but as many people resume their lives in some fashion it's been difficult to keep everyone engaged. We understand that and are now redefining our position on how we proceed with the subcommittee. Our primary goal is to provide Scituate businesses with targeted promotional, event, and liaison support through the holiday 2020 season in order to increase sales and customer engagement. We plan to scale back the work significantly and be more focused on specific tasks. We're going to update the seascituate website on a monthly basis with current events and business database, we plan to continue with our social media campaign and do features on businesses but we will be transitioning the committee

to the chamber. We want to empower Scituate Chamber to take on the role that EDC is playing right now. In that effort, the chamber has asked Sue DiPesa as EDC chair to be a liaison to the chamber. EDC has had a goal of uniting the business groups and the chamber for years. Sue hopes to be part of some positive changes with that organization as well as helping their membership grow. We've learned thru our outreach that there is urgency in helping Scituate businesses survive. We've heard about a number of businesses that are unlikely to make it much longer in this environment. Sue is anxious to get working with the chamber so they can be a true resource for businesses as they navigate these next months and most likely year.

2021 EDC goals:

- North Scituate re-zoning initiative is dependent on the Regional Sewer project, but the plan is to go in front of town meeting in the spring.
- Tourism Office/Visitor Center in WTA building in North Scituate Village
 - re-establish Liaisons
 - Communication Improvements: for example work closely together with Staci Carey from Staci Stitches in NSV. Staci is very engaged and a good communicator.

Other business: Webinar about a Massachusetts state funded project to convert empty storefronts into businesses: RJ and Sue attended:

The store fronts have to be empty for a year. Not the property owner, but the business owner and town together can apply for funds to establish a new business in the empty store.

RJ will establish a list of eligible store fronts in the next months

Next EDC meeting: September 21 2020

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.

Approved 9.21.20