

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes – August 19, 2019 @ 6:30 PM

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), Robert Dwyer, Paul Bartkiewicz, Ann Burbine, Geena Savage, Jack McInnis

Members of the Public: Mark D'Onofrio (743 Country Way)

EDC Staff: Brad Washburn

New Business:

- RJ is going to step down from his position as liaison for the Shellfish Committee, and Jack McInnis is going to take his place
- Two new members joining EDC
- Sea Scituate logo reusable bags
 - Letters are being sent to local businesses with instructions on how to request Sea Scituate logo reusable bags, to help ease transition under plastic bag ban
 - Intend to gift a certain amount to local businesses depending on traffic to the area
- Scituate Farmer's Market
 - Discussed other potential locations for hosting, attracting new vendors, scheduling in comparison to neighboring towns
- Susan Phippen House
 - Discussed fundraising efforts and their back to school drive
- New Developments around town
 - Oro is moving into building previously occupied by Hook and Harvest
 - Discussed options and availability for replacement and/or expansion of existing business/restaurant
 - Bank of America building purchased
 - Building previously occupied by Silent Chef purchased
 - Former bait and tackle shop on the Driftway for sale

Upcoming Events:

- Yarn Hall – 9 stores, including 2 Scituate stores are participating; 9/12-9/15

- Sister City Committee Exchange Program Scholarship Fundraiser- Sept 14
- Untold Brewing's Second Anniversary Celebration – around October 13
- Fall for Scituate (North Scituate) – October 20

Liaison Reports:

- Greenbush (Geena and Brad)
 - Drew Company to provide \$60,000 for traffic/pedestrian improvements
 - Traffic study contemplated for Old Country Way and Jenkins Place; intent is to create a one-way street and have on street parking available
 - Beer Garden at Heritage Days was successful; both businesses intend to participate next year
 - Discussed logistical improvements, including wifi availability for credit card processing
 - Update on Widows Walk parking lot improvements
 - Discussed wayfinding signs and location in Greenbush village
 - Charlie Reynolds' property – intent to transform garage and property behind Reynolds Package Store into mixed use/potential restaurant
 - Rivershed property contemplating adding office building
 - Celtic paws contemplating transforming into mixed use property
 - Stockbridge road development project – changed plans and are going to have fewer units, duplex style, to attract more buyers
- Harbor (RJ)
 - Sister City Committee
 - Exchange program
 - Scholarship fundraiser 9/14; Doc Ellis Band to perform
 - Discussion about next delegation from Ireland
 - Proposed and EDC sponsored event

- Discussion of Irish Cultural trail in the South Shore
- Harbor Cultural Committee
 - Summer Band Stand series
- Discussion of Heritage days with businesses in the Harbor
- Discussion of further development in the Harbor
 - Replacement for Oro
 - Parking difficulty
- North Scituate (Ann and Brad)
 - Craft store intends to have Elvis impersonator out front every weekend
 - Discussed need for insurance for Fall for Scituate event; planned discussion with the Chamber of Commerce
 - Unsure about the status of Jamie's rebuild
 - Need to replace fire hydrant and replace lightbulbs
 - Brad Washburn, Planning Director provided a list of needs for North Scituate to the DPW and Town Administrator
 - Discussion of regional sewer project – Cohasset Board of Selectman agreed to continue with the sewer project

Heritage Days

- Discussion of improvements for next year's event
 - Considered size, cost, and whether we should have one or two days for the festival
 - Focus on Scituate area businesses
 - Proposed scholarship to fund tables for Scituate small businesses

EDC Goals for 2020

- North Scituate Planning and Zoning
- Discussed Coastal Advisory Committee importance and quality of presentations

- Discussed importance of coastal management as town budget priority
- Discussed improving town website to include hot button issues on front page
 - IT solution to avoid misinformation from spreading on social media
 - Include better navigation to information on trails system in town
- Discussed Master Plan meeting
 - Not a large turnout for a very important discussion; need to get more organizations involved
 - Proposed resident and business surveys

Other Business:

- Massworks \$2.2 million grant for Cedar Point Sewer Project
 - Residents in Cedar Point area oppose current plan for pumps, in favor of a gravity system (existing)
 - Discussed pros and cons of current plan, availability of grant funds if plan is changed, and the existence/non-existence of a betterment for residents
 - Biggest issue is what happens when power goes out
 - Discussed purchasing generators as alternative
 - Discussed need to consider environmental impact of infrastructure planning

Date Approved: December 16, 2019