

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - September 26th, 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: September 26th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Scituate Town Library

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

Members of the public: Amy Linnel (North Scituate Business Association), Freya Schlegel (WRC), Patrice Maye (Scituate Harbor Cultural District Committee), Howie Kreutzberg (Waterways Commission)

Minutes of August Meetings: Motion to approve meeting minutes from August made by Susi Hofmeister and second by Fran McMillen, all in favor, meeting minutes of August 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 - August 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, \$595.40.
 - Christen Poole - Social Media Consultant for SVC \$1,500.00.
 - Part of previously approved \$10,000.00 for SVC

Chairperson Report: Sue DiPesa

Select Board Liaison: Karen Canfield

Committee reports:

- Chamber of Commerce - TBD
- Sister City - Ray Voelker
- SHARC - Paul B.
- Scituate Visitor Center - Fran McMillen (chair, SVC)

Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy Linnel
 - Request for funding
- Friends of North Scituate - Susi
- Scituate Harbor Cultural District Commission - Patrice Maye
 - Request for funding
- Greenbush - Matt Elder

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Other Business:

- Discussion of the formation of a new EDC subcommittee

Committee Report:

- *Scituate Visitor Center* - Fran McMillen (chair, SVC): The SVC is currently restructuring their board and is prioritizing getting the town ready for the next tourist season in 2023. The focus is on necessary things in the harbor, like public bathrooms and more trash cans. The only public restrooms in the harbor are the one in the harbor master building. It would be great, if the existing harbor master building could be renovated and extended to have public bathrooms accessible from the outside. Scituate could apply for a Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/boating-infrastructure-grant-big-awards>). This was successfully done by the Waterways Commission for \$100,000 a few years ago. Alternative movable bathrooms are also investigated. In addition, the SVC is working on changing and expanding their social media presence.
- *North Scituate Village* - Amy Linnel: Fall for Scituate is planned for Sunday October 23rd, from 12 pm to 4 pm. They will have ten different Scituate Sports Team staffing a kid's zone, \$10 wristbands are sold at a table on site. The Friends of North Scituate are asked to help that day. The NSBA is asking EDC to fund a kiosk to put on the playground in North Scituate. Sue DiPesa tries to organize an existing kiosk and give it to the NSBA.
- *Friends of North Scituate Village* - Susi: The Friends are busy applying for more funding for the North Scituate Train Canopy Project. As explained earlier meetings, due to delays and cost explosion, the funds for the project were depleted, before the project could be finished. The Friends are working on an application for more funds from CPC and this application is due on October 1st. The Friends will also help with Fall for Scituate, trying to be at the event in person and they will also help with promoting the event.
- *SHARC* - Paul B.: The Town of Scituate Select Board approved a contract with Copley Wolff Design Group (<https://copley-wolff.com/>) for the design process of the new park at Pier 44. Copley Wolff Design Group was chosen, because they imagine to include cultural and heritage elements into their design. The rising sea levels and resiliency will also be considered. A new building hosting the SVC, a small meeting room and public bathrooms is planned. SHARC plans to have the design ready to go before town meeting in April 2023 and apply for funding (the overall costs are estimated to be \$2-3 million).
- Patrice Maye from the *Scituate Harbor Cultural District Commission* (SHCDC) explains that the area between St. Mary's church and the Scituate Light House encompasses the harbor cultural district. It includes the commercial center and cultural and heritage. First Fridays and Art Walk existed and that is why the SHCDC was formed. SHCDC organizes and funds the harbor band stand series. The SHCDC is requesting funds from EDC for flags (\$500) for the Art Walk and \$3500 for fairy lights to put around tree trunks on Front Street. The EDC wants those lights to be LED lights, because businesses have to pay for the electricity for those lights in the years to come and the lights should be on year round.
 - **Motion** to fund \$500 for flags and \$3500 for lights is made by Susi H. And second by Paul B., all are in favor, motion is approved. SHCDC will match the funds, if they are not enough to buy the LED lights.

- *Greenbush* - Matt Elder: Matt is not attending tonight's meeting, but he sent an email with updates from Greenbush: There is a new construction site underway at 14-16 Old Country Way (the old Fitts Mill), new condominiums are planned there. Chick Fagan sold the Scituate Storage property (next to the old Fitts Mill property) to CubeSmart and they took over the storage units in September. Chick Fagan is planning to develop part of his property at 60 Country Way. He is wants to build a 1800 sf storage building/barn behind his house and adjacent to Untold Brewery. Lucky Finn is going into new gas station.
- Scituate Harbor: Karen Canfield asked to be part of the Cole Parkway redevelopment and Susan Daileader will be the EDC liaison.

Other Business:

- *Discussion of the formation of a new EDC subcommittee* - Sue DiPesa: To enhance Heritage Days and help the Chambers of Commerce to bring back heritage, cultural food and music the EDC wants to establish a subcommittee to celebrate Scituate in conjunction with Heritage Days.
 - Motion to establish a **subcommittee Celebrate Scituate** to enhance Heritage Days is made by Geena and second by ?, all in favor, motion is approved.

Next EDC meeting: October 17th, 2022

Adjournment 7:33 pm

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 10/13/2022

Approved: 10/17/2022