

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - October 18, 2021 @ 6:30 pm

Committee Chair: Susan DiPesa

2021 NOV 30 AM 10: 22

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: October 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Scituate Library - Large Conference Room, 85 Branch Street

Attendees: Sue DiPesa (chair), Susanne Hofmeister (co-chair), Paul Bartkiewicz, Jack McInnis, Fran McMillen, Matt Nelson, Geena Savage

Members of the public: Amy Linnell (Liaison NSV), Susan Fiore (SCC), Matt Elder (Liaison Greenbush), Jeanene Rankin

Minutes of Last Meeting: Paul made a motion, Jack second it, Geena withheld her vote, because she was absent, all others in favor, Minutes of September 2021 were approved.

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

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Approve the EDC's meeting minutes - September 2021
- Review, approve and sign pending bills - Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue DiPesa

Director of Planning Board: Kyle Boyd

Town Update: TBD

Committee reports:

- SHARC - Paul B.
- Widows Walk - Jack M
- Cultural Committee - Sue D
- Sister City - Geena S

Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy/Caitlin
- Scituate Harbor - TBD
- Greenbush - Matt Elder
- Friends of North Scituate - Kate
- Scituate Chamber of Commerce - Susan Fiore

Discussion/Vote: Scituate Chamber of Commerce: Heritage Days Funding

Other Business:

Chairperson Report: Sue and Susi give a summary about the first business round table. This was the first meeting of all business organizations of Scituate and they would like to work together to build strong business relationships across town and generate new energy, good ideas and an action plan on how to work together. Their goal is to establish a solid working group that support the individual organization and all other participating business groups. In this first meeting, they discussed the effect Covid has on the businesses in town and how a town wide event calendar would improve organization and promotion of events. Ideas of new town wide events were collected and suggestions were made how to fill empty store fronts. There are more round table meetings are planned for the future.

There are no updates on the sewer from Kevin Cafferty. On October 28th, the planning board will have a meeting about rezoning the area next to the rotary. The old medical building is planned to become a 39 bedroom building. Therefore, the area has to be rezoned. Sewer for all new constructions in Greenbush comes first, before North Scituate Village can get sewered. Greenbush has an active sewer line, and if your property lies next to an active sewer line, you have the right to get your new building sewered.

Committee reports:

- **SHARC - Paul:** Paul is chairperson for SHARC (Scituate Harbor Advisory Redevelopment Commission), the park at Pier 44 is the working title. They are working with a RFP consultant. The plan is to create an outdoor park. The harbor walk would go across it and maybe a pier on to the water, but with no water access. Ideas are a band stand, farmer's market, amphitheater, splash park, ice skating pond, and a snack bar. Kyle Boyd is helping with funding requests. They set a goal to come up with a design and funding in the next 90 days. Many more workshops are planned, more departments are getting involved and property owners in the area will get involved. The water way department and the harbor cultural district will be involved. A pavilion and an observation deck will be explored. The Scituate Visitors Center could get an office in the new building and public restrooms would be build. Money from the MBTA might be available to fund some of the project. A water access for kayaks in the harbor is planned. We don't have the infrastructure for tourbusses coming to Scituate. Maybe the town pier, where the commercial fishing boats are, could be used for busses. They will have their next meeting on November 4th.
- **Widows Walk:** Renovation is ongoing, they are \$200.000 over budget, but they have \$731.000 in earnings and \$635.000 in the bank. Opening will be not November 1st, but a little bit later. They are looking for somebody to run the restaurant year round. 160 people can be seated, 90 outside. They will approach local restaurants to see their opinion for the new restaurant.
- **Cultural Committee- Sue:** No new meeting. Patrice is involved in SHARC and Jane Norton is on it for the SCC.
- **Sister Cities- Geena:** There will be an Irish Heritage Trail meeting at the Senior Center on October 20th at 5 pm. 75 people of 9 towns are invited and they want \$1000 from each town, and that each town dedicates a space for the Irish Heritage Trail. Hingham did a phenomenal job.

Discussion Business District Reports:

North Scituate- Amy: Fall for Scituate will take place on Sunday, October 24th from 12-4 pm. There will be a kid zone with a petting zoo, hayrides, face paintings and more. ABC and The Makery are sponsoring the kid zone. There will also be a chowder fest and an ice cream contest at Dribbles. They will have 40 vendors and food trucks. SSC is covering the insurance for Fall for Scituate and it helped promoting the event with social media.

Harbor - Fran: The upscale Asian-Fusion restaurant Forks & Chopsticks is opening soon at the old Riva place. There is a new Spa "Salt Cave" in the harbor and a new business in Humarock Transition.

Greenbush- Matt: The construction of the gas station moves along. The same is true for the Drew construction. There are new house projects for \$1.5 Million each, planned at the Greenbush/Rotary/Country Way area.

Friends of NSV- Susi: The Friends are helping promoting the Fall for Scituate via social media and by hanging posters around town. They will also offer to help during the event. Susi will talk to Kyle about the new bid for the Scituate train canopy project and will let the contractors know, when the bid will be posted by the town.

SCC- Susan: The SSC has more members than ever before. This might be, because they have improved their social media presence, and they are having a good website and also a newsletter. They are working on a welcome package and member package. They look for members to sit on the board and they will introduce civic memberships.

Discussion/Vote: Heritage Days Funding: Paul makes a motion to fund \$5,000 for the Heritage Days 2021, Jack seconds it and all are in favor. \$27,000 are allocated to fund the short documentary about Scituate. We should have a roundtable and make funding more just (\$5,000 for Heritage Days, Fall for Scituate should get the same amount, etc.).

Next EDC meeting: October 22, 2021

Adjournment 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 11/16/21

Approved 11/22/21