

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - November 21st, 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: November 21st, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Scituate Town Library

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

Members of the public: Karen Canfield (Select Board), Amy Linnel (NBA), Lynda Ferguson (Advisory), Mary Anne Palleiko (Beautification)

Call to Order: Sue DiPesa called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Minutes of October Meeting: Motion to approve meeting minutes from October made by Paul B., all in favor, October meeting minutes were approved.

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Introductions and welcome
- Approve the EDC's meeting minutes - October 2022
- Review, approve and sign pending bills - Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue DiPesa

Select Board Liaison: Karen Canfield

Committee reports:

- Chamber of Commerce - TBD
- Sister City - Ray Voelker
- SHARC - Paul Bartkiewicz
- Scituate Visitor Center - Fran McMillen
- Celebrate Scituate - Paul Maduri
- Waterways - Howie Kreutzberg

Discussion: Business District Reports:

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

Other Business:

- Discussion/Vote - EDC Summit Proposal
- EDC Funding Request Application - Susan Daileader

Chairperson Report - Sue DiPesa: A subcommittee “celebrate Scituate” was established last month. Paul Maduri had agreed to chair the subcommittee but unfortunately Paul has decided that he cannot commit the time to EDC at this time. Our mission is to engage established organizations in town to stimulate participation in the efforts to celebrate Scituate in a way that embraces residents and businesses community. This is something that we at EDC have been advocating for at least the past 5 years. While still in the planning stages, this brings business groups and non profits together to develop events throughout the year to enhance and highlight the heritage, arts and culture of Scituate. Our first thought was to enhance Heritage Days with Celebrate Scituate. Sue reached out to the Scituate Chamber of commerce to discuss how that event could be improved and how we could work together to gather more ideas and perhaps more sponsors to cover the cost of the event. We’ve received many comments and suggestions and wanted to share them with the chamber. They politely declined our invitation by saying **“We are already engaging in monthly meetings for Heritage Days, The Chamber Board and consumed with our everyday work so at this time I think we’re all committed (new word) out for now however, we look forward to your sub-committee forwarding all suggestions and ideas for us for review.”**

The letter to the chamber was discussed and reviewed and Sue will send it out to the chamber. To help us begin to work together, Sue is proposing that EDC host an initial “summit” where town administration comes together with representatives from the business community, the non profits and the Scituate Visitors Center. The event will be a facilitator led discussion about how collaborating will lead to community building and result in economic improvement for our local economy. Sue is officially asking this commission to approve the summit meeting for Dec 13th at 6:30 pm at the public safety building. She is on the Select Board agenda for tomorrow night to inform the Select Board about the summit and other items we’re working on. Sue also likes to propose that we combine this to be our Dec EDC meeting by meeting at about 6 at the same location with a quick agenda.

Susi makes a motion to approve an EDC hosted summit meeting on Dec 13th at 6:30 pm at the public safety building and to include our Dec EDC monthly meeting to be held the same evening from 6 to 6:30 pm prior to the summit meeting. Second by Susan. All in favor, motion to host a Summit in combination with our December meeting approved.

The other item for discussion tonight is the draft document for future funding request from EDC by various groups.

Of note: Ray Voelker from sister city committee recently had surgery so he will not be reporting tonight.

Select Board Liaison - Karen Canfield: The Select Board is reviewing the budget. There is an executive session to discuss the Oyster farm in Scituate water off Cohasset harbor. There is a citizen’s petition in Cohasset to get right over Cohasset harbor. The question is, does this dispute has any effect on the regional sewer project. The status of this project is the following: The economic development package is relieved. \$225,000 for all 3 communities to do engineering.

Committee Report:

- *SHARC* - Paul B.: On December 1st is a meeting with the design team and a site investigation. With community preservation in mind SHARC plans to go with a funding request before April Town meeting.
- *North Scituate* - Amy: Christmas in the Village event, planned for December 16th: hayride, elf hunt at stores. The restoration of Bound Brook is completed and it is beautiful.
- *Friends of North Scituate Village* - Susi: The Friends applied for more funds from CPC and this was supported by CPC. The Friends have to attend the Advisory Board meeting on February 9th and the Select Board meeting on February 28th to answer possible questions for more funding. The friends went to the Beautification Commission meeting in November and Beautification will support their plan for planters along the railroad fence next to the train canopy. Meanwhile, the Friends were working together with Corey Miles from the town of Scituate and Kneeland Construction to get the ceiling of the train canopy finished, which was done in early December.
- *Beautification* - Mary Anne Palleiko: 650 daffodils were planted around town. The Christmas tree in the harbor will be lighted. A new tree was planted in the Common and Beautification is planning a Christmas tree at the Elephant fountain.
- *Advisory* - Lynda Ferguson: There is \$1 Million grant available from See Plymouth for off season events.
- *EDC Funding Request Application* - Susan Daileader: Susan provides a copy of a draft for the EDC grant program 2024. It is discussed and Susan and Geena will work with Nancy Holt from the town to define the application.

Other Business:

Next EDC meeting: January 23rd, 2023

Adjournment 7:59 pm

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 01/20/2023

Approved 4/24/23

