

**Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - January 25th, 2021 @ 6:30 pm**

Committee Chair: Susan Dipesa

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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:** January 25th, 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** Zoom

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

**Members of the public:** Pat Canning, Kelly Duckworth, Elaine Bongarzone, Jennifer Kuhn, Matt Elder (Liaison Greenbush), Mark D'Onofrio (chamber of commerce), Seth Pfeiffer (SCTV)

**Minutes of Last Meeting:** November 16th, 2020: approved

**Agenda:**

Old/New Business:

- Approve the EDC's meeting minutes - November 16th, 2020
- Review, approve and sign pending bills - Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue Dipesa

Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy/Caitlin
- Friends of North Scituate - Susi
- Scituate Harbor - Fran McMillen
- Greenbush - Matt Elder

EDC Initiative/Committee reports:

- Scituate Loves Local - Sue
- Visitor Center - Geena
- North Scituate Sewer - Paul
- North Scituate Rezoning Initiative - Sue

Other Business:

- Pier 44 Re-use
- EDC Elections
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Chairperson Report: Sue has been working with our town planner, Karen Joseph about the rezoning for North Scituate that will come before town meeting in April. There will be a public hearing about that in February. Overall the response has been positive. Speaking of NS, Kevin Cafferty reported to Sue that while Cohasset has not agreed to the regional sewer plan that Scituate and Hull were proposing, Scituate has gone ahead and begun projects on our own system to see if we can free up capacity to connect NS village. We should know more about that once the tests are complete in the Spring.

The Select Board wants to reach a consensus on what to do with the Pier 44 property, such as for a community park. Apparently, there was a survey completed in 2012 which the town administrator will use as a launch for either a new survey or to form the basis to begin making decisions about future use. Select Board Member Andrew Goodrich is leading this effort for the Select Board. Sue designated Paul as the EDC liaison with the Select Board regarding the Pier 44 property.

The visitor center committee is moving along nicely. Since our last meeting, the committee determined that we will do a virtual pilot program. We're studying the availability of grants and discussing the cost of website, app and kiosks. Our goal is still to launch in spring 21. We'll talk more about that as well.

Finally, we need to plan for elections for the commission. Sue is hoping we'll do that in March. Sue is happy to continue as Chair, but she would also be fine if someone else wants to be Chair. We will be electing the Chair, Vice- Chair and Secretary.

#### Old/New Business:

- EDC's meeting minutes - November 16th, 2021 were unanimously approved
- There were no pending bills.

#### Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy/Caitlin are not attending.
- Friends of North Scituate - Susi: The town sent out the bidding package for the ceiling work, but did not get any bids for this. Arthur Beale tries to contact contractor to bid and then the town will send out another bidding package. We discussed shortly about enhancing the look of the construction fence around Jamie's pub. Sue saw construction fences in Boston with fake grass covered and the look was much better. We will find out how much, something like this would cost. 21 banners are up in NSV, and the rest (11 banners) will be installed in the spring.
- Scituate Harbor - Fran not attending.
- Greenbush - Matt Elder: The Drew project should have started this month, but there was hesitation with the stalled train service operation. The Chronicle did a nice feature about Greenbush. There is a link of it on Untold website. Mark will post it on the chamber of commerce website, too. Restaurants are still on 25% capacity and curfew at 9 pm. Untold is still closed. They are working to expand their outdoor space. They won a MassBrewsGuild competition and got architectural help with redesigning their tap room.
- Widow's Walk: They did award a bid for the reconstruction of the club house. Jack McInnis is the new liaison for the EDC.

#### EDC Initiative/Committee reports:

- Scituate Loves Local - Sue: SLL works well under the chamber of commerce. Stacy Carey is doing a great job with social media and get a lot of followers. She is motivating people to get involved with the chamber of commerce. Karen Canfield and the board of health will get involved and help planning events for the summer and fall in Scituate. Mark D'Onofrio

informs about new people on the board of the chamber of commerce, for example Matt Elder is on the board, as is Stacy Carey. With the new energy and new people on the board, sub committees will be built and get work done. Unifying forces in Scituate. A town wide calendar with all events would be one of the goals.

- Visitor Center - Geena: After going in front of the select board and the CPC, the visitor center committee decided to do a virtual pilot program. The process to get a building approved by the town is a lengthy process. The real mission is to get the visitor center going and to launch it in the spring of 2021. The committee will be meeting with a website designer. The visitor center committee might come in front of the EDC and ask for money to help fund the visitor center, probably in March. The chamber of commerce is involved in this initiative, too. The visitor center commission decided on a logo, which will help with the virtual presence. We also had a lengthy discussion about what kind of events the visitor center could plan in the future, but after talking with Staci Carey from the chamber of commerce we came to the conclusion that the visitor center should not be hosting events, but rather support the chamber of commerce to host these events. We would add the virtual layer to reach more people to attend these events. Our goal is to work collaboratively with the chamber and other town committees. While the SLL winds down for the EDC, the visitor center is ramping up.
- North Scituate Sewer - Paul: The first priority is to sewer NS village. Preliminary studies are underway, evaluate available capacity and to lower infiltration of the system by non-sewer sources like sea water. There are existing pipelines that could convey North Scituate Village storage to the existing town water treatment plant, and the Department of Public Works is evaluating what additional facilities would be needed for this purpose. Paul has asked Kevin Cafferty to provide a map that shows existing pipes and additional pipelines and other facilities that would be needed for this project. The studies will be done by April.
- North Scituate Rezoning Initiative - Sue: There will be a public hearing about the NS rezoning initiative.
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**Adjournment 7:22 pm.**

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 02/21/21

*Approved: February 22, 2021*