

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - March 20th, 2023 @ 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: March 20th, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

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

Members of the public: Karen Canfield (Select Board), Amy Linnel (NBA), Matt Elder (Greenbush), Susan Fiore (Chamber of Commerce), Michelle Wood (HBA), Seth Pfeiffer (Scit TV), Brenda O'Connor (SVC), Bill Carey (SVC), Ed Anthony, Jeanne Rankin, Berry Kurland, Chris Conner

Call to Order: Sue DiPesa called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

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

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Call to Order
- Approve Minutes November 2022, December 2022 and January 2023
- Review, approve and sign pending bills – Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Chairperson Report: Sue Di Pesa

Select Board: Karen Canfield

Committee reports:

- SHARC - Paul B.
- Waterways - Howie Kreutzberg
- Chamber of Commerce - Susan Fiore/Dan Taylor
- Celebrate Scituate - Sue Di Pesa
- Scituate Visitors Center – Fran McMillen and SVC Board member Brenda O'Connor and SVC Treasurer Bill Carey
 - Discussion/Vote: Funding Request SVC

Discussion: Business District Reports

- North Scituate – Amy Linnel
- Friends of North Scituate – Susi Hofmeister
- Greenbush – Matt Elder
- Scituate Harbor Business Association- Michelle Wood

Chairperson Report - Sue DiPesa: This will be our last remote meeting, we will meet from April on at the Scituate Town Library. Great things are happening in the next months. EDC has put together a fabulous collaboration between Scituate Beautification and Untold Brewery to work together for Ship Shape Day on May 6th. More information about this will come out soon. Additionally, EDC found out to reuse the grain bags, the brewery used to toss out. We got somebody who does make actual reusable bags out of these grain bags. This is all part of the Celebrate Scituate umbrella. Paul will join us later and hopefully gives us an update on SHARC. SHARC did complete a survey in town and they had over 50 meetings to present the possible plan for the site. Tonight, Sue asks the EDC for a letter of support for the funding that CPC has approved for SHARC. The SVC will give us an update on what they are doing and what they will do with our help. They are requesting additional funding to enhance the mission. EDC has some openings for seats on the board. Who is interested is invited to apply. The interviews with the Select Board will be in June. The EDC funding process changed and the new form of application for funds from EDC is still under review with the town attorney. It will go into effect probably on July 1. We will review the meetings minutes from November, December and January and resend them out to everybody and vote to approve them in our April meeting.

Select Board Liaison - Karen Canfield: Town meeting is on April 10th. The CPC approved the request from SHARC for funding the next steps and the only commission who voted against it is Advisory. They thought the project is great, but that it did not accommodate enough parking. At Town Meeting, Advisory will explain, that they do not support SHARC at this point. The rest of the warrant is about the town's budget. The Select Board agreed 99.9% with TA budget recommendations for fiscal 2024. But because there were additional funds from the state allocated after the budget was completed, the board will recommend at town meeting: \$50,000 for support of our building conservation and enforcement and an additional \$50,000 to enhance communication with the community. The rest of the funds will go to collective bargaining. The Select Board had a joint meeting with the Shellfish Advisory to review three applicants for the proposed oyster farms over in the Scituate Waters on Cohasset town side. All three applicants were granted preliminary approval and that will now go to DMF for their license approval. If all goes well, there will be three oyster farms in Scituate. Cohasset still opposes this farming. It is all in front of the Attorney General. In the process, Scituate found out that there are town of Cohasset moorings in Scituate's water. This will be all discussed with Cohasset.

Two things are coming up: Before the Select Board are requests for outdoor seating for many Scituate restaurants. Almost all, but one have sidewalk or other room to put tables outdoors. But The Galley is the only one with no such space, and requests to use parking spaces on Front Street. Karen would like EDC's opinion on that. Sue is generally in favor of outdoor seating, but heard about complaints to take away parking for this. Also, the barriers used to close off the parking spaces really look ugly.

The other thing is that there are some community objections to the indoor license for a drag show at the Salt Society. They were issued a violation last time they had a show, because the performers went out into the middle of the street. They had another event, and they had the same violation.

Select Board is taking applications for open positions right after town meeting and interviews will be scheduled right away, so everything will be done by July 1st. There are a lot of open seats: Zoning Board of Appeals, two seats at EDC and other commissions.

Select Board approved to take on ocean side infiltration at Sand Hills, those pipes will be replaced and relined. This will free up space at our treatment plant for sewerage NSV. Our sewer system is infiltrated by a lot of ocean and storm water, only 60% is wastewater, 40 % is influx. Fixing this, will free up capacity for NSV sewer.

Committee Report:

- *Greenbush*- Matt Elder: Untold Brewery is working with Scituate Beautification to hold events following Ship Shape Day on May 6th. We will showcase the sustainability of this town. Our goal is to close up the the parking space so everyone could come together after cleaning up the town and coming together. Informational booth about what UB is doing and what Beautification is doing. UB will take out a one day outdoor liquor license to be able for everybody to enjoy the event outdoors. Independent of this event, Greenbush business owners have planned an event at the same day, it is called "Get to Greenbush". They invite all town residents and other south shore residents to come visit Greenbush and to find out what this part of town has to offer. It is similar to First Friday in the harbor, every business plans to have some show case or event for this day. This is all spearheaded by BirchBarn Design. A lot is happening at Greenbush: Widow's Walk is scheduled to reopening at the end of this month. And progress on new building on 14 Old Country Way is made.
- *North Scituate* - Amy: Board 143 is taking over the space from Marylou's, it is under construction right now. Maybe it will become a coffee shop. Silverstone went in with Good Roots and this is going well. No open spaces in North Scituate. No new events. The kiosk will be put up soon.
- *Friends of North Scituate Village* - Susi: The Select Board approved the CPC funds to finish the train canopy project and Beautification signaled support for buying planters to beautify the Canopy. The site will be cleaned up after town meeting, when funds are approved to finish the canopy.
- *Harbor* - Michelle Woods: On March 23, The Mill Wharf is having a Whiskey Dinner together with the sister city project West Cork. There will be a rep from West Cork and SHS students who are just back from their exchange from West Cork will be there, too. First Friday in May, falls on Cinco de Mayo and the HBA is working on a Cinco de Mayo theme.
- *Chamber of Commerce* - Susan Fiore: Coffee talk every other month for all members and anybody who wants to come. The next one will be at the Salt Cave. Heritage Days is in planning, and we booked some music events.
- *Celebrate Scituate* -Sue Di Pesa: The Ship Shape Day Celebration is the ongoing event and we will work on some small collaborations with businesses and other committees.
- *Visitor Center* - Brenda O'Connor and Bill Carey: Brenda is giving us a presentation about the Scituate Visitor Center. She talks about the history of the SVC, the mission and the needs and the wants. You can watch the presentation of 20 minutes at the link below from 38 minutes to 58 minutes. It displays what SVC has done in the past, what it is doing right now and their plans for the future. It also shows the cost to maintain the website, the app, the social media campaign. In the presentation is outlined how the SVC will secure future



future funds with an advertising campaign on their website, seeking sponsors and applying for grants. The treasurer is giving a short update on how the website performs and how well it develops. Fran McMillen mentions other actions by the SVC, like the community forum, where all community groups are invited to come together and share their needs and wants. 25 different groups turned out at the first forum and more are planned for the next months to come. This shows, that the SVC is not only focused on tourists, but also on everything what is going on in the community.

The EDC budget for the remainder for fiscal year 2022/2023 is \$20,195.

There is an official request from the SVC for \$15,000 for funding. This money will fund the SVC for the remainder of the fiscal year. Susi makes a motion to vote on the SVC application for funding of \$15,000 and Geena seconds it. All are in favor. Motion is approved.

There is a request by SHARC for a letter of support from EDC to the town for CPC funding for next steps to do environmental review, obtain permits, make cost estimates and secure grant funding and prepare design and construction bid documents. Paul makes a motion for EDC to write a letter of support to the Select Board to support CPC funding for SHARC. Susi seconds the motion. All are in favor. Motion got approved. EDC will provide a letter of support to the town of Scituate for the CPC funding of SHARC.

Other Business:

Next EDC meeting: April 24th, 2023

Adjournment 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 04/20/2023

Approved 4/24/23