

TOWN OF SCITUATE
TOWN CLERK
APR 26 2021 6:30 PM

Economic Development Commission Meeting Minutes - April 26th, 2021 @ 6:30 pm
Committee Chair: Susan Dipesa

RECEIVED

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: April 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Zoom

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

Members of the public: Kyle Boyd (Town Planner), Amy Linnell (Liaison NSV), Matt Elder (Liaison Greenbush), Brenda O'Connor, Michelle Wood (Harbor Business Association), Seth Pfeiffer (SCTV), Kelly Bower, Bill Carey, Jennifer Kuhn, Fran McMillen, Katie Baxter (Rep. Kearney)

Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes of February 2021 and from March 2021 are approved.

Call to Order: Sue Dipesa called the meeting to order on 6:35 pm.

Agenda:

Old/New Business:

- Introductions
 - Kyle Boyd, Director of Planning and Development
- Approve the EDC's meeting minutes - February 2021 and March 2021
- Review, approve and sign pending bills - Review approved bills under the Municipal Modernization Act

Election of Officers:

- Chair: Sue Di Pesa
- Vice Chair - Susi Hofmeister

Chairperson Report: Sue Dipesa

- Select Board Update - Karen Canfield

Committee reports:

- Pier 44 Re-use and Water Resources - Paul
- Visitor Center presentation
 - VOTE Funds request
- Scituate Harbor Business Association Funds Request - VOTE

Discussion: Business District Reports:

- North Scituate - Amy/Caitlin
- Scituate Harbor - Fran McMillen
- Greenbush - Matt Elder
- Friends of North Scituate - Susi
- North Scituate Sewer and Zoning - Sue
- Pier 44 Re-use and Water Resources - Paul

Chairperson Report: Sue introduced Kyle Boyd, the new Director of Planning and Development. He is very familiar with the town, because he has worked with the town for a long time in the coastal division. Kyle's background is in planning. He got his education in planning and he also was the coastal manager for many years in Scituate. He still is involved in the town's coastal management. Kyle is open for any questions from the EDC at any time and is looking forward to working closely with the EDC. North Scituate rezoning was approved at the town meeting. Kevin Cafferty gave an update on the situation of sewer for North Scituate Village in our last meeting. Kevin will be invited to our next meeting to give us an update on this. An important day is coming up: Ship Shape Day will be on May 1st 2021.

Election of Officers:

Vote: Paul nominates Sue as chair and Susi as vice chair for a 1 year term. This motion is second by Geena and Jack. All are in favor.

Old/New Business:

Vote: February and March minutes are approved. No pending bills.

Committee reports:

- Pier 44 Re-use and Water Resources - Paul: In the last Pier 44 meetings, it was further discussed how the water park will look like. All described in detail in the last EDC minutes: Splash site, pond, snack bar, pier into the water. New members of a special committee will be appointed by the select board tomorrow. A rebate program for water saving fixtures was approved by the town meeting.
- Scituate Harbor Business Association Funds Request: Kelly Bower gives an overview of what the harbor is planning on doing this season and what funds are needed. Some of the events which are planned in the harbor include the Harbor Band Stand Series, The First Nights, the Classic Cars in the Harbor to name a few. The request is for \$5,517.50, this would cover the need of seating, marketing, music and lighting. The contingency is on the approval of these events by the town of Scituate. The EDC is offering to help the Harbor merchants to have more activities done throughout the week in the harbor. The bathroom situation in the harbor should be improved. Kyle will talk to the TA about opening the harbor masters office to the public or to get improved porter potties installed in the harbor
- Vote: Motion to approve Harbor Business Association funds request of \$5517.50 contingent on the approval of events by the town and approval by the TA made by Susi, second by RJ, all in favor.
- Visitor Center presentation: The EDC has worked with the Visitor Center Committee for the past ten months together to build a visitor center for Scituate. Bill Carey is the treasurer of the Visitor Center Committee and starts the presentation. He uses data from the Plymouth County Tourism and meals tax money of the town in the last year to explain the need for a visitor center to help restart the economy. The mission of the Visitor Center is to promote Scituate as a travel destination, improve the visitor experience and boost the local economy. Brenda O'Connor gives an overview over Scituate's potential as a travel destination and the lessons learned during the pandemic. The presentation ends with a listing of accomplishments by the visitor center committee. They established themselves as a 501(C)(3) non-profit organization and elected a non-profit board, adopted bylaws, established an advisory board, secured a website vendor to establish virtual presence and marketing and built a wireframe for a website

which should be launched by the end of June 2021. The Visitor Center committee also joined the See Plymouth tourist organization. The advisory board, chaired by Geena Savage, established a very diverse group of stakeholders exploring available funds and to make the initiative popular. They aired on the radio, established a Facebook group, and created an instagram. They are concentrating on networking with other towns, state senators and a variety of other chambers. The overall budget for 2021 ending in June is \$42,800 and the Visitor Center is requesting the EDC for a fund of \$20,000 which would cover the costs of the website and some additional administrative costs. The presentation goes on to defining values of investments into the tourist industry and the benefit thereof. The Visitor Center group does not try to change the character of Scituate by bringing bus loads of tourists. Rather they are trying to bring in maybe 20 more guests per day to Scituate, which will spend approximately \$200 each, which would bring \$600,000 per year to the town. This is a low estimate, the goal would be to double this amount. The question is, what will happen, if there is not such an initiative trying to bring more business to Scituate. The empty store fronts in the harbor will expand and Scituate will loose even more businesses. The presentation will be emailed to the EDC members. A fund from EDC to the Visitor Center Group would help to secure other federal funds for the Visitor Center, which mostly request matching local funds. Once the website is up and running, there will be even more funds available for the center. The website itself will be a source of revenue by selling advertisement and merchandise. The Visitor Center should come back to the EDC to give a quarterly update.

- Vote: Paul makes a motion to move the funding request of \$20,000 forward. Jack seconds it. All in favor. The motion to give the Scituate Visitor Center \$20,000 is approved.

Discussion Business District Reports:

North Scituate- Amy: On May 4th will be the first North Scituate Business Association meeting with all the new businesses to reconnect and plan ahead. There are no empty store fronts in North Scituate. The new businesses are great. The North Scituate Business Association might come to EDC for funds for their fall and winter events.

Greenbush - Matt: Untold Brewery did a fundraiser together with artist Becky O'Toole and raised close to \$11,000 for the Dana Faber South Shore and North and South Shore River Watershed Association. The construction of a new business in Greenbush was put on hold for permitting reasons for now. BirchBarn Design was very busy and finally caught up with the demand, after being featured by The Chronicle. The new gas station will break ground in the summer. Widow's Walk golf course is open for business, but is undergoing a major clubhouse renovation.

Friends of NSV: The Friends will clean up North Scituate Village and along Gannett Road as a group on Ship Shape Day. They appointed Roy Coates as the new project leader for the train canopy project, after Henry Yeh moved to Florida permanently. Arthur Beale is still in charge to work with the DPW and the contractors on the project. The streetlights and banners will be worked on as soon as the DPW has time for it.

Next EDC meeting: May 17th, 2021

Adjournment 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted: Susanne Hofmeister 05/13/21

