



EDIC MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 AT 4:30 PM

CATA CONFERENCE ROOM- FIRST FLOOR

3 POND ROAD

- Call to order of the Board.
- Meeting began at 4:34 pm. In attendance: Chair C. Gustin, Vice-Chair B. Bramhall, Treasurer R. Pino, T. Balf, M. DiLascio, J. Oppenheim. Absent: T. Hedges. Also in attendance: J. Cunningham, Attorney to the EDIC, J. Cahill, City of Gloucester's Director of Community Development, S. DiStefano, City of Gloucester's Director of Economic Development, J. Pope, City of Gloucester's IT Director.
- Meeting minutes from the August 6, 2019 were approved. A motion was passed and all were in favor.
- Mr. Pope provided an extensive overview of **broadband issues** to the Board, including differences among the following:
 - Dark Fiber- A company owns the cable and only provides the pipe and not the service. Connects point A to point B. The user builds out, and is responsible for, actual connections.
 - Basic internet connection provided by a cable or telecommunications company.
 - MPLS, which sorts and prioritizes data for faster transmission, is an enterprise-level service provided by a cable or telecommunications company.
- EDIC will explore current broadband needs within the two industrial parks.
- UMASS Boston, Industrial Park Study – executive summary and SWOT analysis provided to board. Final report will incorporate focus group results. Issue to be explored include the following:
 - **Power supply:** We need to take a deeper dive into the power supply issue to include additional feedback from occupants of both parks to assist in further understanding the seriousness of the problem.
 - **Internet/Broadband:** The City, EDIC and other stakeholders will continue to meet to better identify needs, options and strategies for various levels of service that may be required in the future.
 - **Shipping:** Amazon dropped FedEx as a supplier. EDIC to check with other businesses in the parks to gauge FedEx interests in servicing more businesses in this area. The study also raised awareness about the need for additional warehouse space.

- **Food:** The UMASS study brought up the lack of food options in both industrial parks. Follow up to include addressing questions around bringing food trucks into the parks, zoning issues and role of property owners. City and EDIC to coordinate.
- **Transportation:** The last mile. CATA will be updating the City shortly on its assessment. The City is also looking at potential grant funding that can be used to subsidize funds. EDIC to discuss with the Chamber to identify companies that may be interested and the implications. Logistics are a key factor to make this happen.
- **Emergency Exit:** The Blackburn exit to Pond Street is privately owned. Mr. Butman is the owner and discussions are ongoing.
- EDIC to be actively involved working with various stakeholders to address issues identified above.
- EDIC will work with UMass to schedule focus groups and will plan follow-on briefings for both parks. EDIC would like to see more quantitative data on types of business, markets, vacancies, numbers of employees, etc. as a tracking tool.. The EDIC needs to work with UMASS to close some of these gaps and are looking for more data and observations that were noted during site visits.
- Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 8th, 2019 at 4:30 pm.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm.