



## EDIC BOARD MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2019 AT 4:30PM

3 POND ROAD, CATA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR

- Call to Order
- Meeting began at 4:30pm
- In attendance were: Chair C. Gustin, Vice-Chair B. Bramhall, Treasurer Ruth Pino, T. Balf, M. DiLasio, and T. Hedges. Absent: J. Oppenheim. Also, in attendance: J. Cunningham, Attorney for the EDIC, and S. DiSefano, City of Gloucester's Director of Economic Development.
- Minutes were approved from the September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes. All were in favor.
- Chairman's Report:
  - CATA "Last Mile" Transportation Grant proposal. EDIC is working with the City and Chamber to gain support.
  - Broadband issue: An alternative to broadband is MPLS (Multi-protocol label switching). City officials currently working to meet with industrial park occupants to find the right solutions for their needs.
  - Power Supply: Momentary outages have been happening in the industrial parks. National Grid gas been invited to participate in the November meeting for an overview of their activities and plans to minimize outages. EDIC would like to explore if there is a renewable energy component to our strategy.
  - Emergency Access Road: Safety issues have been raised about getting out of Blackburn in the event of an emergency. S. DiStefano will follow up with Gloucester Fire Chief Smith on the issue. T. Hedges will follow up with Mr. Butman.
  - Food Services: Several conversations have been around options for a food truck/café/restaurant for Blackburn Industrial Park.
  - Shipping: FedEx is apparently showing greater interest in serving the Blackburn area.
  - Expansion: Follow up to the initial Weston & Sampson report that was completed. B. Bramhall is still working at getting some feedback from Weston & Sampson on finding a contact who was originally involved with that initial report.
- MassEcon: EDIC would like to propose to join MassEcon to provide more visibility for EDIC for LoopNet and SiteFinder. By joining MassEcon, the EDIC will gain exposure and be able to continue networking. The EDIC should consider developing a group page on LinkedIn. The benefits of the MassEcon membership would include visibility to a broader membership organization, to be able to work with the entire cluster idea, and the research capabilities will be

explored. Also, by being part of a larger organization has some value and will make the EDIC more of a key player.

- A proposal was made to join MassEcon's Sitefinder for 1 year at a cost of \$500.00. The motion was passed, and a roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.
- A proposal was made for the EDIC to "commit to" a \$5,000.00 contribution towards CATA's The Last Mile Transportation Grant. The EDIC will continue to talk to those with letters of support and ask for other local businesses to contribute. The funds will not be expended until the grant is approved. A roll call vote was taken, and all were in favor.
- Blue Economy: T. Balf will provide a brief update about the Blue Economy at the next meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Pino went over the EDIC's current financials. Our yearly audit has been completed. A letter from the auditor is being forwarded to the EDIC that will need a sign-off. Current expenses are minimal.
- M. DiLascio provided the Board with an Update on the UMASS Industrial Park study. We are in the last stages of the study. UMASS will need to present their findings to the Board and a combined focus group from both industrial parks will be part of the report. The EDIC would like to get this wrapped up within the next 3 weeks.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.
- Next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 4:00pm.