



EDIC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 4:30pm

3 Pond Road, CATA Conference Room

- Meeting started at 4:30pm
- In attendance: Chair Carl Gustin, Vice-Chair Bill Bramhall, Taylor Hedges, Tom Balf, Jerrold Oppenheim. Absent: Mike DiLascio and Treasurer Ruth Pino. Also, in attendance: John Cunningham, Attorney for the EDIC, and Jill Cahill, Director of Community Development for the City of Gloucester, and Dan Sancomb, Sr. Commercial Energy Efficiency Representative with National Grid.
- Minutes from the October 8th, 2019 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- Chairman's Report:
 - Last Mile Grant was submitted and a decision on the grant proposal will be decided at the end of the month.
 - UMASS Industrial Park Assessment- What are the next steps? The focus groups captured it very well. EDIC Board will need to take 2-3 topics from the study and focus on those areas.
 - Harbor Plan- The last Harbor Plan was done in 2014 and it was decided to push this effort up and focus on 1) marine research, 2) infrastructure issues, 3) commercial/ industrial issues, and 4) economic development and job creation. The City has submitted a \$300,000 Harbor Plan update grant request to the Seaport Economic Council. The City wishes that the EDIC would consider the harbor to be another industrial park to focus on. The plan is to have someone from the EDIC be a part of the Harbor Plan Committee. The current request is to have the EDIC fund a quarter of a twenty percent match. The request is for \$15,000 from the EDIC and a \$45,000 contribution from the City. A motion was passed in support of matching the grant in the amount of \$15,000 coming from EDIC funds. A roll call vote was taken. Balf, Bramhall, Gustin, Oppenheim, and Hedges were all in favor of the contribution.
 - Talks with EDIC, GMGI, Representative Ferrante, and Senator Tarr are ongoing to discuss economic development issues and how the boards can work together moving forward.
 - T. Hedges organized a meeting with several Cape Ann Park property owners to discuss park issues and develop an action plan specifically for Kondelin Road. It is apparent that

Kondelin has different needs than Blackburn. Dialogues will continue and Hedges will organize another meeting with property owners before the end of the year.

- Dan Sancomb from National Grid presented to the Board on power supply and energy efficiency issues pertaining to the industrial parks. National Grid will look at each customer's primary needs. This is a way for the industrial parks to improve business from a sustainability and energy standpoint. Customers who are interested will engage with Dan in no cost energy assessments. Most of these energy efficiencies are at minimal costs to customers. National Grid has a Community Solutions Program which is a new resource for customers. The plan revolves around taking three customers and engaging them to partner with each other in a strategic energy management plan. The EDIC plans on having National Grid come in and work with businesses one on one and do energy assessments. EDIC will outreach to property owners and coordinate these assessments. Energy assessments will include EV programs, no cost engineering assessments, new boilers, light installations, and electric vehicles. There are a lot of financial benefits to these programs.
 - North Shore Blue Economy Update- A workshop was held in early October. The meeting was broken out into focus groups. The next phase will be having focus groups on the North Shore. The main focus of the meetings will be 1) Blue Life Sciences, 2) Blue Hardware, and 3) Coastal Resilience. Eight to ten experts will be chosen in these areas that will present and take a look at the North Shore to gain insights to broadening the issues. Other topics that will be addressed are living resources, tourism, boat building, and marine transportation.
 - Tax Classification- The 1.03 tax classification factor that is being considered by the City Council may not seem like a significant element in a business decision to expand in or relocate to Gloucester. This adds to wage pressures, the impact of tariffs for some companies, stiff competition for talent being located in a land-constrained community. A motion was passed for the EDIC to accept the 1.03. A roll call vote was taken. Balf, Gustin, Taylor, and Bramhall were all in favor. Oppenheim was opposed. This issue will be going up in front of the City Council on November 12, 2019.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10th, 2019.
 - Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.