



EDIC Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 4:30pm

CATA Conference Room, 3 Pond Road, First Floor

- Call to Order of the Board. Meeting began at 4:30pm.
- In attendance: C. Gustin (Chair), B. Bramhall (Vice-Chair), R. Pino (Treasurer), T. Balf, M. DiLascio, T. Hedges, and J. Oppenheim. Also, in attendance: J. Cunningham, Attorney to the EDIC, S. DiStefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester, and Felicia Webb, CATA Administrator.
- Minutes from the December 10, 2019 meeting were approved. All were in favor.
- Felicia Webb provided the Board with an update on the Last Mile Pilot. This is a grant request by CATA to fund a “Last Mile” pilot for employees who use or would use Mass transportation to get from the MBTA station to various locations in the City. The proposal includes two dedicated vehicles that would meet the morning commuters and transport them to and from work. Commuters would set up a standing order to be picked up and brought back to the train stations in the afternoon. CATA would use two of their vehicles that would have a different look from the normal CATA buses. If this proposal comes through, CATA will be using a software package called VIA which is a known identity in Massachusetts. An app will be developed so that commuters can be able to download it for scheduling purposes. EDIC has reached out to various companies for additional funding. This is a workforce grant through Mass.dot. CATA put in the proposal with a 3-year budget. The buses will have a 16-passenger occupancy and accessible for 2 wheel-chairs. Webb has been asked to speak at the January 23rd meeting to go over this pilot program with the Blackburn occupants. To date, a decision has not been made regarding this grant. CATA will provide the EDIC with an update as soon as the grant is awarded. Webb expressed that CATA had a very strong application.
- National Grid will also be presenting at the January 23rd meeting with Blackburn occupants. National Grid has put together a comprehensive power point presentation covering energy efficiency for park occupants and owners. National Grid is prepared to address voltage sags, surges, power outages, and quality issues. Consulting services will be available to commercial and industrial customers. A similar type of presentation will be scheduled for the Kondelin park occupants as well.
- Signage: EDIC is taking steps to improve signage within Blackburn Industrial Park. Happy Valley put through a request to have a couple of signs made. Updated signage is needed for Blackburn. Overall, all signs need to be updated. The Board discussed that a brand standards guide should be developed for signage. The goal is to provide consistency, clarity, and visibility

on size, format, fonts, and designs used. Even with today's technology and GPS capabilities, signage is still very important. The City's Building Department will need to be involved which enforces the use of signs under the City's ordinances. A sign that is on public property the DPW needs to be involved. A sign that is on private property needs to go through the Building Department. It may be a good opportunity to come up with a brand standard for all signage in the park and create some guidelines on maximum height, fonts, colors used, and design. The EDIC first needs to get Bill Sanborn involved. This is also an opportunity to do some branding for the City. The Board agreed that they need to put a system in place that helps with this process moving forward. Cambridge 7 did the signage for the Harbor walk. They would be a good contact. Also, Sam Park would also be another great resource.

- Old Business: Weston and Sampson- 2007 Westside Report. Weston and Sampson originally provided the EDIC with a report in 2007 about the development of area "C" adjacent to Kondelin park. B. Bramhall recently met with Weston and Sampson to revisit some of those findings. Weston and Sampson came back with a three part proposal which would include: 1) Putting together all of the original paperwork from the original report and researching the project, 2) Provide a field study proposal that would put some boots to the ground, and 3) the planning phase. Weston and Sampson would provide the EDIC with a fresh perspective on expansion capabilities, the topography of the land, and get a true sense of its value.
- Jamie Corliss, Grant's Administrator for the City's Community Development department, recently put together a round table meeting on grant proposals. B. Bramhall attended the meeting and is now working on a questionnaire to supply Corliss with some feedback on issues concerning economic challenges, job training programs, workforce development, and affordable housing.
- A motion was passed to conclude the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th at 4:30pm.