



EDIC Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 4:30pm

Zoom Meeting

- Meeting Began at 4:30pm
- In attendance: Tim Wood, Treasurer Ruth Pino, Temporary Chair Bill Bramhall, Taylor Hedges, Mike DiLascio and Tom Balf. Absent: Jerry Oppenheim
- Also, in attendance: Sal DiStefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester, Felicia Webb, Chief Administrator for CATA and John Cunningham, Attorney for the EDIC.
- Roll Call was taken.
- Approval of meeting minutes from August 11th, 2020 meeting. Motion was filed to accept the meeting minutes. All were in favor.

Continued Business:

- **Business & Industrial Park Re-opening:** T. Hedges provided the Board with an update on the status of the business parks reopening. Hedges reported that everything is running smoothly. The DPW has started road repairs on Kondelin Road and Hedges will follow up on the timeline.
- **The Last Mile-** Felicia Webb, CAO for CATA provided an update to the Board regarding on The Last Mile Grant. The Federal Highway is taking another look at all the projects that were submitted and funded to see if these projects are still viable in the new environment due to COVID. A final decision should be made by MassDot by September 28th, 2020 which is the end of their fiscal year. CATA has seen a decrease in their ridership due to the schools being closed during COVID. Ridership went from 13,000 to 3,600 in one month. Ridership is on the uptick again with a total of 5,000 CATA rider last month. CATA is now offering commuter rail shuttle because the commuter rail ends in West Gloucester. Summertime was busy on the weekends with beach goers and now CATA is seeing a shift of more riders Monday through Friday with a ridership of 6,500 per month. Gloucester High School will be remote until sometime in October. Once, GHS moves to a hybrid schedule, CATA will be offering transportation to students in the morning only. Students will be released later in the afternoon in which CATA will not be able to help. CATA will be providing transportation to middle school students to and from school.

- **Industrial Park Signage-** Data has been collected as to where the signs will be positioned and what companies will be displayed on each. Estimates are still being put together. Hedges will have an update for the Board at the next meeting. The EDIC needs to come up with a budget to present to industrial park occupants and make it as cost effective as possible.
- **Hiltz/24 Kondelin Road-** The Board continued their discussion from the last meeting regarding Hiltz. J. Cunningham, Attorney for the EDIC, did some research on Google Earth and it appears that Hiltz has been putting dumpsters on the right of way for some time. Cunningham would like to reference the Weston and Sampson report and asked for the documents to be sent electronically. The recording secretary agreed to send the electronic files to Attorney Cunningham. The EDIC would like to know if Hiltz is potentially placing and storing dumpsters on the Kondelin Road right of way. The EDIC would also like a status if B. Sanborn's enforcement towards Hiltz. This will be continued at the next meeting.
- **Ground Fishing Report-** T. Balf provided an overview to the Board about his white paper report on Ground Fishing. The document paints the landscape of the current status of ground fishing in Gloucester and most relevantly discusses other coastal communities like New Bedford, Portland, Maine and Chatham. Balf reflects his views on ground fishing and the opportunities that exist and the strategic paths we should be thinking about for coastal fishing communities. The report has sparked conversations and the feedback has been quite positive. What are the next steps? How can the EDIC play a role in the strategic objectives here in building a stronger fishing economy? We strongly believe there are possibilities for the EDIC. In some communities, most notably Lynn, their EDIC has been a driver of the waterfront master plan and trying to capitalize on their significant waterfront property. Moving forward, our EDIC needs to adjust its role that it previously had and become more of a driver of economic success. R. Pino spoke about this being a fishing vessel and are there any opportunities on financing packages that are available on the Federal Government's part or our state government. The EDIC does have the financial tools to assist in the finance or potential partnership with community banks to make some of this happen. M. DiLascio spoke about this being a great example of many projects that can come out of this white paper. We talk about the changing role of the EDIC and how do we use this document as a catalyst to become part of our charter. Transitioning the EDIC into more of an advisory role to going out and executing some of these projects. Pino stated if we expand ourselves, we are going to need an Executive Director or more than one program manager. The feedback from the EDIC was that the white paper report was nicely done.
- **EDIC Open Chair Position-** Some Board members expressed an interest of becoming Co-Chairs. The EDIC currently has 7 members which are appointed by the Mayor. Attorney Cunningham reminded the Board that the EDIC is governed by one Chairperson. It is not to say that one person could not be designated as Chair and the EDIC operates with project managers as Co-Chairs. Attorney Cunningham told the board that he would have to double check the EDIC's covenants surrounding 121C. This sort of circles back to the question about broadening the scope and authority of the EDIC and see that the statute was adopted in the early 70's which is now 50 years old.

- **Cape Ann Industrial Park Clean Up**- Some EDIC Board members inquired if the Industrial looks any better after the clean-up. The Board will need to circle back to Bill Sanborn for an update.
- **Other News:** S. DiStefano informed the Board of a new manufacturing company that is interested in coming to Gloucester and move into the GMGI building. This company is called Hefging Engineering LLC and they manufacturer underwater gliders. This company will potentially create 60 new jobs. The vote is happening tonight and Hefging is doing a short presentation in front of City Council. Their parent company is currently located in Norway. The current pandemic is hurting companies worldwide. It is nice to see that Gloucester is still getting inquires about new companies interested in coming into the City. The main reasons Hefging's is looking at Gloucester as a possible location is its proximity to Boston, like the GMGI building, can easily test their devises here, and they were vacationing here and really likes the City. Hefging will be offering jobs which include assembly line operators, managerial, executives and engineers. There will be 10-15 jobs created each year and many blue-collar jobs at higher paid wages.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, October 13th, 2020
- A motion was passed the meeting was adjourned at 5:27pm.