



## EDIC Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 4:30

### Remote Zoom Meeting

- Call to order of the Board
- Meeting began at 4:30pm.
- Roll Call Taken. In attendance: Tim Wood, Mike DiLascio, Taylor Hedges, Acting Chair Bill Bramhall, Jerrold Oppenheim, Treasurer Ruth Pino, and Tom Balf. Also, in attendance, Attorney to the EDIC, John Cunningham and Sal DiStefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester.
- **Business Park Status:** Many businesses are still working at half capacity. The paving project has started on Kondelin Road. Tenants and business owners would like to see more paving be completed. T. Hedges will speak to Sal DiStefano about how to move forward on funding more of these improvements and applying for grant funding opportunities.
- **The Last Mile:** Felicia Webb from CATA provided the Board with an update on the Last Mile, the workforce transportation grant. The scope of our project has moved through Federal Highway's (FHWA's) approval process. Now, the draft contract between MassDot and the grantee (CATA) has to be approved by FHWA. MassDot is hoping this process is completed by the end of October. The timing looks to be actually lining up with CATA's survey from earlier this year (delayed until late fall).
- **Industrial Park Signage:** T. Hedges provided the Board with an image of the construction of the new signs for Blackburn. The picture that was presented to the Board was a tall cement structure with wooden sign slats that can be updated at any time. The group is also looking into solar lighting to illuminate the signs. A finished quote will be presented to industrial park tenants and owners. The EDIC Board will need to evaluate the cost of the project before they can commit to contributing to the funding of the project. Project completion is anticipated in the Spring of 2021. The EDIC may be responsible for the actual sign fixtures while tenants and owners will be responsible for the sign plates.
- **Kondelin Road and Hiltz-** The Board agreed that a letter needs to be sent to Bill Sanborn in the Building Department explaining that the EDIC is giving Hiltz permission to use the access road to store their dumpsters. Once the EDIC needs to access this road, all dumpsters will have to be removed. Attorney Cunningham will be drafting a letter for the Board to approve at the next meeting and will investigate the issue further.
- **MassEcon Membership:** The Board reviewed the benefits of continuing their membership with MassEcon. The renewal fee for this year will be \$500.00. The discount to the EDIC is due to all

the new EDIC members. MassEcon's yearly fee for membership is \$,1000.00 for nonprofit city groups. DiStefano explained to the Board that MassEcon can serve as a research or advocacy arm. It is a great relationship to have and to be able to get a perspective of what is happening over the bridge and throughout the commonwealth. MassEcon has district improvement financing available. A grant to hire a consultant to put together a TIF, tax increment financing, to get improvements completed. Continued membership has a great value and the EDIC can do a better job of utilizing this resource. T. Balf would like to add MassEcon to the EDIC's agenda each month. A motion was made to renew the MassEcon membership. A roll call vote was taken and all of the Board Members were in favor of renewing this membership.

- **UMASS Report Publication Request:** Professor Antonio Raciti is publishing a report and would like permission to use the EDIC's UMASS project that was put together last year. The Board discussed this and found that there were no objections in using the report and publishing the information.
- **National Grid:** National Grid would like to organize webinars and meet with the industrial parks. Payment plans and rebates are currently being offered. National Grid would like the EDIC to help coordinate these meetings and now may be a good time to conduct these meetings. Companies now have time to look at this and are now willing to tighten parts of their operation. National Grid will be having a brainstorming meeting that Oppenheim, Hedges and Wood will be participating. Lightening is just a piece of it and there are many other topics that can be discussed with the industrial parks including insulation, process improvements , and heating system improvements.
- **Harbor Plan-** Tom Balf has been appointed to be a part of the Harbor Plan Committee to update the City municipal harbor plan. Balf will be a City representative along with 4-5 other stakeholders interested in marine/harbor development. Some of the issues this committee will be focusing on are specific to what is happening now and what they want to happen. Their focus will be the infrastructure including broadband, piers and wharfs. The first order of business will be to draft an RFP and get a consultant in to help with the process and what internet and digital tools will be needed to be incorporated in the Zoom process. The ability of having the public engage without physically being present.
- A motion was passed to end the meeting at 5:48pm.
- Next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:30pm.