



EDIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 12, 2021 AT 4:30 PM

Remote Zoom Meeting

- **Call to Order of the Board**
- **Meeting began at 4:30 pm.**
- **Roll Call Taken. In attendance: Tim Wood, Mike DiLascio, Taylor Hedges, Acting Chair Bill Bramhall, Treasurer Ruth Pino, and Tom Balf. Absent: Jerry Oppenheim. Also, in attendance was Sal DiStefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester.**
- **Acting Chair Bramhall reviewed Open Meeting Laws: This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Meeting Law. Consistent with Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. If you are calling in on the phone you can press Star 9 (*9) to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or device there is a "raise hand" button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either of these options during oral communications to be recognized to speak.**
- **The minutes from the December 8, 2020 meeting were not approved. One page of the minutes was omitted from the meeting packet. The Board will be emailed the minutes again to review and this will be put back on the agenda for next month's meeting.**
- **Business Park Update- With the uptick in COVID cases T. Wood and T. Hedges will reach out to the two industrial parks and get an update on their status. The recording secretary will send the contact list for Blackburn to T. Wood. Sal DiStefano provided an update about the parking issue with Cometeer. Parking on the street is discouraged and Cometeer is looking for additional parking needs in and around the park. Good news is that Cometeer has hired many new employees. The bad news is that they are running out of space for parking. DiStefano explained that there are additional parking spaces in the park. However, they may require taking a shuttle. This has also come up with Happy Valley as well. Tim Wood brought up that there is additional parking in the lower lot at Applied Materials and will see if additional parking is available. The shuttle is working under COVID restrictions and may not be able to assist with sharing the shuttle with non-Applied personnel. To date, Cometeer has hired close to 60 employees.**

- **The Last Mile-** Mike DiLascio provided the Board with an update on the Last Mile Grant. Felicia Webb from CATA informed DiLascio that the contract was awarded to VIA Transportation Inc based in NYC. DiLascio stated that while reviewing the RFP's, VIA was seen as a leader with global experience. Transportation expectations and needs are changing right before our eyes. This platform provides CATA with flexible programs. The City of Salem has launched the "Salem Skipper" and charges \$2.00 per ride on the micro-transit. This program picks you up and brings you where you want to go. Times are changing and people are looking for a smaller types of transit service.
- **Industrial Park Signage:** Discussions continue with the proposals and financial materials which are next to review. T. Hedges continues to work with Applied Materials to see if they want to go with their own color scheme or what is on the proposal. Hedges is still working on contacting various contacts and getting additional quotes. During the next meeting, Hedges will present physical sign costs, individual sign costs, EDIC's contribution, and what the costs will be associated with each company participating.
- **Hiltz Site:** John Cunningham, Attorney for the EDIC has been in touch with Bill Sanborn and the ZBA is aware of the situation. Attorney Joel Favazza have been in contact with Attorney Cunningham regarding the matter. Both attorneys are looking into the rights and it looks like Hiltz has used the land for 20 years for storage. It might already be something that falls into adverse possession. We will need to look into how much the land above it is valued at and how much will it cost us to work this through. Does this land become landlocked without this access point? There are other points of entry but there are more steeper routes. Will this right of way every be used? There is a lot of information to work through legally. Hiltz has been using this land for 20 years. The EDIC is more concerned about the future use of this land and if the City ever wants to develop the Kondelin site. The EDIC lots are 29,30, and 31 Kondelin Road. Discussions will continue and will be added to the February agenda.
- **Harbor Plan Update:** T. Balf provided the Board with an update of the Harbor Plan. The committee had a recent Zoom meeting and the process has been delayed. The next steps will be to develop an RFP and send it out to potential vendors and consultants. Balf is on the RFP review committee along with Rick Noonan (Committee Chair) and Tony Gross (from the Waterways Board). The draft will be going shortly. Catherine Glenn (NS CZM Coordinator) spoke about how CZM has engaged a couple of design consultants to look at coastal resiliency in DPA's and what are the engineering issues and land use issues associated with anticipated rising tides for 2030/ 2050 and 2100. Gloucester and Chelsea Creek are the two DPA's that will be the focus of this study.
- **MassEcon Research Possibilities:** Balf and DiLascio came up with two options to utilize Mass Econ's resources. The EDIC is looking further into partnering with MassEcon to do some fundamental research. MassEcon has done a lot of economic research. The EDIC spent money on the UMASS study and that was very effective and have contributed to the Blue Economy. MassEcon could take a look at these two studies and assist us in looking at what are the opportunities. The other option would be to see what are the opportunities and things that we need to be thinking about in order to attract marine biotech biotechnology or marine bio-

manufacturing. It looks like we are all on the same page and perhaps MassEcon's could play a role in helping us do some fundamental research to help us understand the marketplace needs are and what people would be interested. DiLascio will move forward with contacting MassEcon and see what resources they have available. Balf will report back at the next meeting.

- **EDIC Positions:** As of July 1st, Ruth Pino and Bill Bramhall will be stepping down from the EDIC. How do we transfer these two positions seamlessly? Jill Cahill will be filling these two positions.
- **Next meeting:** Tuesday, February 9th, 2021 at 4:30pm. A motion was passed to adjourn. All were in favor. Meeting ended at 5:32pm