



## **EDIC Board Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 4:30 pm**

### **Remote Zoom Meeting**

- **Call to order of the Board**
- **Meeting began at 4:42pm**
- **Open Meeting Law:** This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state Open Meeting Law. Consistent with the 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 a 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.
- **In attendance:** Treasurer Ruth Pino, Acting Chair Bill Bramhall, Taylor Hedges, Tim Wood, and Mike DeLascio. Also, in attendance, Sal DiStefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester. **Absent:** Tom Balf, Jerrold Oppenheim, and Attorney for the EDIC John Cunningham.
- **Approval of the meeting minutes from the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and January 12, 2021. All were in favor.**
- **Hiltz is off of this meeting's agenda. Attorney Cunningham was unable to make the meeting tonight. We will be adding Hiltz back on the agenda for the next meeting.**
- **Business Parks-** There is not anything new to report on about the businesses in the industrial parks during COVID. EDIC Board members Wood and Hedges will reach out again to industrial park contacts.
- **Industrial Signage-** The weather has delayed progress on this project. Anchor Seal recently added a granite sign to the property. The sign company that the EDIC is working with just completed the installation of a similar stucco sign that was included in our proposal. The installation was done for a company in Ipswich. T. Hedges will send the address of the Ipswich business so that EDIC Board members can do a drive by to see the installation. Hedges is also waiting on pricing and feedback from Applied Materials. The weather has not helped the project more forward. Bill Sanborn and Hedges still need to do a site visit to determine the location and positioning of each sign. The Operations Manager at Applied Materials is working

remotely and input is still needed from Applied to continue to move forward with this project. T Woods will reach out to Matt Beach from Applied Materials to get more direction.

- **Beaver Solutions-** Our yearly invoice was received for our annual contract for the maintenance required for the pond. In one to two years, the EDIC will need to do make some adjustments to the system that is currently in place. The DPW will need to get involved as well. There are not any issues now and the system is working as it stands. However, if the pond becomes even more shallow, we will need to remove the Beavers and try to relocate them.
- **MassEcon-** Tom Balf will not be making it this evening. DiLascio informed the Board that MassEcon has not yet responded to our wish list. The MassEcon discussion will continue at the next meeting.
- **Reminder for all Board members from Joanne Senos** about renewing their state conflict of interest recertification is needed for 2021.
- **Ruth Pino** provided the Board with an overview of the EDIC's year end 2020 financials. We will need to start thinking about a replacement for the Treasurer's position. Financing the UMASS project and granting money to the Blue Economy is the future of the EDIC on how we can be most impactful and continue to build future alliances.
- **Starlink** is available for remote areas and will be starting up soon in this area. It is \$99.00 to sign up and a refund is available. It is \$499.00 for the equipment and then \$99.99 per month. This could be a game changer. DiLascio briefed the Board about Starlink's capabilities. It is another provider we may want to talk to that offers a broad band width. Starlink will be providing service by mid to late 2021. Starlink may be a viable solution to some of the area's internet accessibility issues for business.
- There has been no feedback from Comeeter. DiStefano provided them with some referrals with parking assistance. Comeeter continues to hire new employees and the company is growing. This does point to larger issues that tenants have in the park with parking itself.
- **New appointees for the EDIC-** Please reach out to Jill Cahill with your suggestions on the matter.
- **Meeting adjourned at 5:10pm.** A motion was passed to adjourn, and all were in favor.
- **Next meeting: March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 4:30pm.**

