



EDIC Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 4:30 pm

Remote Zoom Meeting

- **Call to Order of the Board**
- **Meeting started at 4:32 pm.**
- **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: Acting Chair Bill Bramhall, Treasurer Ruth Pino, Taylor Hedges, Tom Balf, Mike DiLascio, and Jerrold Oppenheim. Absent: Tim Wood. Also, in attendance, Felicia Webb, Chief Administrator for Cape Ann Transportation Authority, and the Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester, Sal DiStefano.**
- **Approval of meeting minutes from the April 13, 2021 meeting were approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes, and all were in favor.**
- **The EDIC received notification of payment for the Harbor Plan Request for Funding. The Board voted to approve the \$15,000.00 contribution on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 and a letter of intent was sent from the acting Chair Carl Gustin on March 20, 2020. The letter was sent to the Community Development Director Jill Cahill confirming the contribution. The invoice was just received and will be processed for payment. T. Balf explained to the Board that the contribution funds will be targeted for the fishing industry and the Blue Economy which is important to the growth of Gloucester’s economy and jobs. Balf also expressed the need to thoroughly explore the authority of the EDIC beyond the role of advocacy and where we might go to promote the harbor economy. There is so much going on and the EDIC should explore the housing impact in Gloucester. The EDIC should take more of a part in the future development of Gloucester’s economy. The EDIC does have a real authority and**

responsibility to legally explore what these issues are. Balf brought to the Board's attention that it may be a good idea to work on a draft or outline of the EDIC's path moving forward. This should be complete prior to the Acting Chair Bramhall and Treasurer Pino's departure from the Board. Perhaps the EDIC can organize a subcommittee or a working group along with Attorney John Cunningham to explore the Board's goals moving forward. Di Stefano suggested the Board consider a strategic plan and perhaps getting assistance from an outside facilitator to explore long term goals and the role of the EDIC's Executive Director. Working with an outside facilitator could provide valuable information on how other EDIC's function. It would be worth it to come up with a plan and dedicate some time to it as an organization. It may be valuable for the working committee to come up with some ideas and give some specific goals to our legal council to review. Moving forward the EDIC needs to come up with a realistic scope to pursue and change our legal structure.

- **CATA On Demand:** The sponsor feedback has been going well. The service launched on April 20th. There have been 250 downloads of the app and 50 unique people have used the service. There have been 196 trips so far and 29 trips in one day with projections going up. There have been a lot of positive feedback and most of the trips have been from the commuter rail to work destinations. The sponsorship working document was reviewed and contact names have been revised. The EDIC will be reaching out to corporate contacts for potential sponsorship into this program. It is great to see the program working so well and off to a great start. All the rides have been paid for and the City of Gloucester and CATA employees have promotion codes to use.
- **Industrial Park Signage:** T. Hedges continues working on the signage project and reaching out to business park contacts for participation and sponsorship.
- **Business Park Status:** Apparently, many companies in Gloucester are having difficulty with staffing. It is the \$15-25.00 pay wage they are having a hard time filling. Workers are making more on unemployment and are staying home. The availability of affordable housing for seasonal help is also a contributing factor. There is a critical need for the EDIC to get into the issue of housing. The EDIC's broadening influence should be on housing and circle back with R. Pino and to keep a potential realtor on the Board. The Board sees the need for someone with experience in commercial and residential real estate like Pino.
- **EDIC Logo File Generation:** The EDIC logo was formatted into different sizes and formats. The service agreement from GL Design still needs to be signed off and sent back to the design firm.
- **Expenses:** The Board voted on giving the Chair and Treasurer the authority to approve expenses under \$107.40. There is a reoccurring expense for the hosting domain name that M. DiLascio processes on a credit card each month and is then reimbursed. The Board voted on giving the Chair and Treasurer the authority to approve expenses under \$107.40. A roll call vote was taken, and all were in favor.
- **Status Update on Harbor Plan:** The team is headed up by a company called Utile which was selected. They have a lot of experience and the team consists of a small niche of consultants which have done a lot of work in Boston. Currently, Utile is working on the Salem Harbor

Plan. This project will take 18 months to 2 years to complete. This will be an exceptional plan that will yield a great product focusing on economic growth and job creation for the City.

- **Blue Economy Status:** The group received an updated draft from the UMass Marine Station and will take the weekend to review it. A meeting is scheduled for next week to review the draft and what steps are needed to move forward. In the next few weeks the Blue Economy Plan will be finalized.
- **Meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm. All were in favor.**
- **Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8th, 2021 at 4:30 pm.**