



EDIC MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021 at 4:30pm

Zoom Meeting

- **Call to Order of the Board**
- **Meeting started at 4:35 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. Absent from the meeting were Mike DiLascio, Tim Wood, and Jerrold Oppenheim. Also, in attendance, Felicia Webb, Chief Administrator for Cape Ann Transportation Authority.**
- **Approval of meeting minutes from the June 8, 2021 meeting were approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes and all were in favor.**
- **Business Park Status: Essential workers are in the office but a majority are still working remotely from home base until fall. No change on Kondelin and most people are back at work.**
- **Industrial Park Signage- T. Hedges sent out materials for tenants to review. Applied has interest and would like more involvement in signage choices. Anchor Seal would like their sign listed alphabetically. Webb/Standard Electric did not express an interest to participate at this time. Ryan and Woods expressed that it was not a good time. Custom Seasonings and NOAA did not give any feedback on the project. Cometeer did not like the color scheme. Signs are about visibility and how eyes can relate to color. T. Hedges will continue to contact businesses and present the pricing. Decisions regarding how much the EDIC will commit to is still up in the air. The Board will determine this when the pricing is finalized. Rough estimate entails 20 signs at \$3,000.00 per sign. Total estimated cost of job is \$60,000.00. Hedges will reach out to other companies within the industrial park like Spittle, Standard, and Beauport.**

- **CATA on Demand: Gorton's did pledge a \$1,000.00 contribution. F. Webb will contact them to see if they would like to advertise on the back of the van and possibly looking at 2nd and 3rd shift modes of transportation options for employees. Applied expressed an interest if the van would be available earlier to accommodate the commuter rail schedule. To date, there has been no word of XPower having any interest in participating. Intershell provides their own transportation for their employee base. Presently, NOAA will be going back to work in January so there is not a need or interested in participating at this time. The Beauport Hotel does not have the budget right now to join in on the project. However, the CATA on Demand service is available to any hotel guest or employee. Addison Gilbert did express an interest and hopefully will participate during their next fiscal year. Currently looking to add this to their budget for October. To support this project, we would need to find an additional \$4,000 to meet the match by December 31, 2021. T. Hedges will follow up with Jay McNiff.**
- **T. Balf wrote a great letter about the co-work space. Nate Cahill at Wheel House has received money in the past to support his growing business and is hoping to continue to expand. Ideally, he is looking to buy a property downtown for expansion purposes. The pandemic has been good for his business model and his business plan is moving forward quicker than he imagined. By purchasing a place downtown, he could then continue renting it to existing spaces on Duncan St and the Old Chamber Commerce space. He is very firm as a student of these cooperative work spaces. The ideal location to make this work is in the middle of downtown. The Santander building that is currently available would be ideal because it has the parking and the rental space. It is currently selling for 4 million and it would cost a lot of money to retro-fit and update the building.**
- **T. Balf also provided an update regarding his nomination of GMGI for the Economic Impact Award from MassEcon. It focused on the expansion of the bio-tech academy to cover bio-manufacturing with its training and adding new employees from a core expansion standpoint to the workforce in the Northeast. It would be great for them to win one of these economic impact awards.**
- **EDIC Yearly Audit- The EDIC signed off on the agreement for Giusti, Hingston and Company to continue to perform the next audit. A draft of the most recent audit was supplied to all Board members in their meeting packet. The audit looked fine on the draft that was provided and Giusti, Hingston will be releasing the final copy to the EDIC. There were no issues to report at this time.**
- **T, Balf provided an update on the NS Blue Economy. The report will be ready at the end of July and will be available as a soft release. The Municipal Harbor Plan Committee they has had one on one meetings with consultants to express or share concerns and issues about growing the harbor economy. Balf expressed his belief that there is opportunities in this emerging blue economy and growing the fishing industry.**
- **Balf committed to looking in the fundamental EDIC stuff. Balf has reached out to individuals at the state level and has contacted various individuals involved in other EDIC's organizations. Many EDIC's are not perceived by the state as an economic engine. Balf is looking to receive a list of what communities that have EDIC's in place. Balf will continue to research into this**

matter and will present some preliminary findings at the next meeting. At the next meeting, Balf will also review a summary of suggestions of how we frame the EDIC and discussions moving forward.

- **R. Pino has someone in mind to take over her roll in the EDIC. This is B. Bramhall's last meeting. The Mayor will be appointing other candidates.**
- **Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th, 2021 at 4:30pm.**
- **A motion was passed to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor.**