



EDIC MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

ZOOM MEETING

- **Call to Order of the Board**
- **Meeting began at 4:37pm**
- **In attendance: Acting Chair Tom Balf, Treasurer Ruth Pino, Mike DiLascio, Jerrold Oppenheim, and Tim Wood. Absent from the meeting: Taylor Hedges. Also in attendance was the Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester, Sal DiStefano.**
- **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.**
- **Approval of the meeting minutes from July 13, 2021 were approved. A motion was made to approve the minutes and all were in favor.**
- **Industrial Park Signage- T. Hedges could not make the meeting and the Board will get an update on this at the next meeting.**
- **The Board discussed a Public Meeting for Admiral Green that took place on August 23, 2021. This was a community outreach meeting that took place for the proposed Marijuana Cultivation and Product Manufacturing Establishment at 58 Great Republic Drive. The purpose of the meeting was for community outreach and this proposal will still need to go before City Council. T. Balf will follow up on the status of this and will provide an update to the Board in October.**
- **Business Park Status- There was no new information to report regarding Blackburn Industrial Park. T. Hedges will provide an update regarding Kondelin Rd at the October meeting.**
- **CATA On Demand- Felica Webb provided some rider usage information for the months of July and August:**
 - **July/ 1,573 trips provided/ 184 riders**
 - **August/ 1,765 trips provided/ 195 riders**
 - **CATA has not stated the 6:30am start time for early morning commuters.**

- It will be interesting to see how many of these riders are employment related
- We are getting great feed-back from the community regarding this service.
- CATA recently donated a bus to the community Impact Unit. The bus was donated by CATA and refurbished with funds donated by Cape Ann Savings Bank and BankGloucester.
- **North Shore Blue Economy-** T. Balf provided a status update to the Board regarding the North Shore Blue Economy. The report has been finished and an executive summary was developed. The current date scheduled for the release and ZOOM meeting will be held on October 15, 2021 which will coincide with a smaller invite only meeting which will include the Lieutenant Governor. The Vice Chancellor of UMASS Dartmouth will also be in attendance. The NS Blue Economy is excited about releasing this and getting on with phase 2. The backup date will be October 22nd, 2021. UMass Marine station and other partners will be putting together a plan for phase 2 funding.
- **Municipal Harbor Plan-** T. Balf provided an update to the Board regarding an economic baseline assessment that has been done as part of this consulting work. This is about economic development of the maritime industry and the development of a thriving 21st century cluster as it is a planning and zoning exercise. The first public meeting will be held in October and this will get more interesting as the public gets involved. Between the NS Blue Economy Report and the Gloucester Economy report, we will have two very comprehensive economic analyses of what is going on in this community and in this region. In terms of understanding the future of the economy, whether it is Blue Economy, manufacturing, or tourism, we have information about what sectors are thriving and what is not. Also, we will now have average wage information. This will be very valuable information for the EDIC to have at our fingertips to assess where we want to go as an organization and what type of economy development we want to promote. T. Balf will share with the Board the link to the economic assessment plan that was done as a part of this Municipal Harbor Plan.
- **New Business: New Chairperson for the EDIC.** T. Balf expressed an interested as being Chairperson for this committee. The EDIC Board is waiting for the current Administration to make an appointment.
- **The Future of the EDIC Presentation-** T. Balf made a presentation to the Board about the future roll of the EDIC and what needs to change. Under 121c has strict legislative requirements. There are a lot of strengths to 121c. However, there are a lot of weaknesses. The EDIC is limited to manufacturing and industrial. We no longer own any substantial assets or have an ongoing revenue stream. A number of communities have used 121c as the basis for special legislation that expands the range of eligible activities beyond industrial and manufacturing to include commercial business, recreational, social services, educational and other nonindustrial projects. Based on conversations with the State, few communities have “generic” EDIC’s anymore, although some like Boston and Lynn with landholdings continue to function effectively. We have some fundamental questions to ask about where we see the EDIC in the future. Is the existing EDIC model the correct organizational structure to achieve

the vision plan, or projects we seek to achieve? There are possibilities to generate and find revenue streams. What can we do under the current EDIC model?

- The Board has these fundamental questions that need to be addressed and identify some of the goals that they would like to achieve. What is the best model moving forward to achieve those goals?
 - What do we want to do?
 - What can we do under the current EDIC?
 - Benchmark
 - Gap Analysis- What is the best development model to achieve our goals?
- R. Pino will be sending out a survey to the current Board. T. Balf will be checking with the City Clerk's office to see if the Board must comply with the open meeting law requirements when meeting in a brainstorming session.
- The Chamber hires someone every year to help with strategic planning. Pino will reach out to the Chamber about any consultant referrals.
- The Board will need to come up with a reasonable timeframe to complete this project.
- Motion was passed to adjourn meeting. Meeting ended at 5:40pm.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021.