



EDIC Board Meeting

November 16, 2021 at 4:30 pm

3 Pond Road

Gloucester, Ma 01930

- **Call to order of the Board.**
- **Meeting began at 4:35 pm. In attendance: Acting Chair Tom Balf, Tim Wood, Treasurer Ruth Pino, and Taylor Hedges. Absent: Mike DiLascio and Jerrold Oppenheim. Also in attendance: Sal DiStefano, Economic Development Director for the City of Gloucester, Olivia Perez-O'dess who is the new Director of Community Relations with the Chamber of Commerce and Felicia Webb, Chief Administrator for Cape Ann Transportation Authority.**
- **Approval of meeting minutes from the October 12th, 2021 meeting were put on hold and not approved. The October minutes will be put on the agenda for approval at the January 18th, 2022 meeting.**
- **Invoice Approval: Annual Dues for Massachusetts Alliance for Economic Development were brought in front of the Board for approval. The annual dues for 2021 is \$1,000.00. A roll call vote was taken and all Board members were in favor. Motion was passed to approve the invoice.**
- **Search for new council: The EDIC is searching for a new candidate for legal counsel. John Cunningham will be retiring in early 2022. The EDIC will first ask Cunningham for any recommendations. T. Balf encouraged the Board to bring forward any recommendations as well. The other issue the Board will need to address is document storage. Cunningham will be handing over all of his EDIC documents at the end of his term. The recording secretary will be sending T. Balf the City's retention schedule on how to handle the documents. We will also reach out to Attorney Cunningham to arrange for a review of his records to understand both the type and volume of records that will need to be reviewed for record retention and/ or scanning.**
- **Board Replacements: The Board is also looking for 2 more candidates to be appointed to replace Bill Bramhall and replace Ruth Pino next year and bring the Board back up to 7 people. Under 121c the Board needs to meet the following criteria for Board members:**
 - **Industrial Background**
 - **Financial Background**
 - **Real Estate/ Zoning Expertise**

- **Municipal Government**

Potential candidates were discussed and the Board will reach out to those candidates for further discussions. The candidates will then be presented to the new Mayor in early 2022.

- **CATA on Demand Update:** The service continues to gain popularity. Ridership was up in October (1300) and then saw a decrease of riders in November (650) due to the two holidays, school is back in session, and the slowdown of tourism. There is also an issue with driver availability that limits any expansion of the service at this time. The good news is that CATA has met their funding matching for this year. Corporate sponsors include: Addison Gilbert Hospital/Leahy, Applied Materials, Gortons, and the EDIC. CATA on Demand started running on April 20th, 2021 and the plan is to continue this service. As the popularity of this services increases, it only make sense to continue this service. It makes more sense to run smaller buses and to continue this on-demand model. CATA has done an outstanding job and this is definitely quite a success story. The Chamber of Commerce has expressed an interest in also supporting this cause.
- **Industrial Park Status:** The curbing at the entrance of Kondelin Industrial Park was recently completed by the City. Sal DiStefano expressed that there is still an issue with parking in Blackburn. He recently received a complaint about the parking at Happy Valley and how industrial park tenants do not want any parking on the street.
- **Industrial Park Signage:** There is still quite an interest in the signage project. Hedges will be contacting Standard Electric and FW Webb again to see if there is any interest. Next steps will be getting a solid design quote and putting this out to bid. The goal is to get this completed in the first quarter of 2022. Hedges and Wood will move forward on this project and report back in January.
- **Manufacturing /Industrial Economic Development Sites:** GMGI has a pretty compelling story in the life sciences arena. GMGI was selected as a finalist for Mass Econ’s Innovation Awards. With only 20 employees, GMGI’s workforce training/”academy” program is quite unique. Life Sciences and bio-manufacturing are booming in Massachusetts. There are a lot of companies that want to set up shop. GMGI has made a name for themselves and for Gloucester. There is extensive interest in companies that would be interested in moving their operations to Gloucester. The EDIC has put together a list of 20 people (lenders/property owners/real estate agents) and plan to work with GMGI to set up a meeting. GMGI would give the pitch on what’s happening in the life sciences and bio-manufacturing sector in Massachusetts and raise awareness of property owners, developers, and lenders to the potential opportunities in Gloucester. The target date for this meeting is the first week in December and the EDIC and GMGI would host this meeting which would be invitation only.
- Regarding brownfields development opportunities, Balf has asked Jim Curtis, president of Cooperstown Environmental, an environmental consultant/engineering firm, to present to the Board at the January 2022 meeting. His presentation would be to raise awareness and

understanding of the Brownfields program, and assist in understanding how to frame and assess brownfield development opportunities.

- The EDIC Board also expressed an interest in speaking to Mayor Elect Verga. This would be an introductory meeting to present the mission and direction of the EDIC and to get some insight from the Mayor Elect. Balf will coordinate that meeting.
- Update on the North Shore Blue Economy- The presentation was very successful. With the commitment from UMASS and all of the federal money that is flowing, there should be plenty of funds available to advance Phase 2 of this project. It will be challenging for us and the Gloucester representatives to try to marshal a regional initiative, and take advantage of our history and ocean leadership role here in Gloucester.
- Update on the Municipal Harbor Plan- Gloucester is still a dominant player within the lobster and ground fishing markets. The industry has definitely changed since its hay day. However, Gloucester is still in a position to thrive in the Blue Economy. The Municipal Harbor plan and the growth of the fishing, boat repair and ocean research capabilities on the harbor can also support the tourism industry and the retail environment of downtown. Also, rising sea levels are going to be another challenge that will be considered and/ or addressed in the harbor plan. As the consulting team completes the basis assessment phase of the project, input from the public and assessment of potential changes will soon be discussed.
- Olivia Perez-O'dess was introduced to the Board. Perez-O'dess has a new role with the Chamber of Commerce working with each of the communities and working towards economic development and prosperity. The EDIC Board welcomed Perez-O'dess.
- The next EDIC meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 18th at 4:30 pm in the CATA Conference Room.
- A motion was passed and the meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm.