



EDIC Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 4:30pm

Remote Zoom Meeting

- **Meeting started at 4:40 pm.**
- **Attendance was taken. In attendance: Acting Chair Tom Balf, Treasurer Ruth Pino, Jerrold Oppenheim, Mile DiLascio, Taylor Hedges. Absent: Tim Woods. Also in attendance: Sal DiStefano, Economic Development Director for the City of Gloucester, Olivia Perez-O'dess, Director of Community Relations for the Cape Ann Chamber of Commerce, Stephen Sacca, and Chris McCarthy.**
- **Open Meeting Law Guidelines were read: 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 past meeting minutes for October 12, 2021 and November 16, 2021 were voted on. A motion was past to approve the minutes. All were in favor.**
- **Searching for new Council: Gloucester EDIC is currently seeking a new legal counsel. An RFP or RFI will be going out in order to fill the position. We are preferably looking for a Gloucester resident that is versed with real estate transactions, zoning ordinances, and conservation commission issues. The search will begin.**
- **Nominations for Additional Board Members: Ultimately, it is Mayor Verga's decision and final choice on filling the current vacant positions within this Board. Any interested candidates, should draft a letter and submit it to the Mayor Office suggesting that you have an interest in serving this Board. A letter should accompany a resume with a list of experience. Chris McCarthy and Stephen Sacca were present on the Zoom call and have expressed an interest in joining. Stephen Sacca made a statement to the Board and looks forward to the opportunity to potentially participate.**
- **Industrial Park Status: The Swan Net facility purchased in 2021, by private developers has been leased to Applied Materials. It was also reported that Jay McNiff has a preliminary agreement in place for the vacant ACME Apparel building at the corner of Blackburn Drive and Great Republic**

Drive and is conducting due diligence. Sal DiStefano reported to the Board that the Blackburn Industrial Park is almost at full capacity with very little space available. The Matheson Gas property at the end of Grove Street was reported as recently put under agreement, although there is no confirmation of that. Connolly Seafood has decided to cease operation of its retail location here in Gloucester and concentrate on their Boston location. Many businesses during COVID were faced with relying on having more of a social media presence, staffing shortages, and supply chain issues. There is a lot more competition now in the retail seafood arena. Hedges reported there is some interested in building or expanding on Kondelin Road.

- **Business Park Signage:** The signage project is moving forward and Hedges is working with the graphic designer on the project to make some color changes to the design. One more final mockup will be done to present the final color scheme at the next meeting. A number of companies in the park have expressed an interest in participating in the project. Those companies that do not want to participate will need to be notified that all current signage will be coming down. A one page letter will need to be drafted explaining participation, cost, payment, and upkeep of the signage. The EDIC will address questions regarding upkeep and maintenance moving forward. A timetable will be drafted in terms of decision points and completion schedule. The designer will provide new mock ups with new colors. It will take two weeks to finalize all participants and coordinate contribution costs. The February meeting will be devoted to this signage project and finalizing the design and preliminary costs. We will need to review billing, maintenance, upkeep, and how to manage this moving forward. It is reasonable to say that capital costs now with a nominal annual fee that would go to the EDIC that would be responsible for multiple management requirements. Taylor will identify some talking points and the Board will discuss.
- **Chris McCarthy of Bray Street** was on the call as a guest and made a statement about having an interest in serving on the Board. Chris has over 35 years of experience in land development and stated his strength is zoning and permitting. T. Balf encouraged McCarthy, as well as Sacca, to submit a letter to the Mayor and Jill Cahill. Also, include a resume and brief bio.
- **CATA OnDemand Update:** Felicia Webb was on travel and not available to attend the meeting. Mike DiLascio provided the Board an update about CATA OnDemand's activity. The program continues to perform well, a little under 1,600 trips were provided in December, which is slightly higher than expected given the holidays. There was a sponsorship meeting with Addison Gilbert/Lahey on December 9th, 2022 via zoom. The sponsorship meeting included AGH/Beverly's new President and Vice President. They are very keen with working with us. This month they actually put a call out for grant proposals. Addison Gilbert has a \$100,000 of grants that they are giving out as a part of their community development. They are primarily looking to fund service organizations that are complementary to their community service mission. CATA did submit a proposal. Addison Gilbert expressed an interest of how to use CATA OnDemand more for staffing and patients and utilizing the service further. In general, one other theme to these meetings is continuing to promote the CATA OnDemand Service. It aligns well with what we are hearing. Its original intent was providing transportation to and from the train stations and assisting Gloucester employer's with transportation for their employees. We are also seeing that Gloucester employers are seeing the benefit of having CATA OnDemand for those who need to

work and do not have cars. DiLascio spoke to Joey Ciaramitaro at Good Morning Gloucester and he had an interest about helping to promote this service and help to build more awareness. One of the roles of the EDIC's moving forward is primarily to continue to promote and help CATA obtain more sponsorship opportunities. DiLascio will consult with CATA on what are the financial needs that need to be met for next year. The EDIC will reach out to companies that are currently participating and will look at finding new ways to increase sponsorships and ridership. People are now taking the OnDemand bus instead of taking cabs. In the future, some of the larger corporations will be targeted like Market Basket and Stop and Shop for sponsorships.

- **Continuation of the EDIC Board Discussions of Economic Development Sites: A December 14th meeting was held at GMGI on the expansion of life sciences and bio-manufacturing in Gloucester. This presentation was hosted by GMGI and the topic discussed was what is going on in the life science sector in the Boston area and what has changed. GMGI has certainly created an industry buzz due to the cutting edge research it is doing and the bio-tech academy. The presentation was a huge success with over thirty attendees and since then there has been great follow up. There is a lot of interest in the development community in Gloucester and making people aware of the potential of building out sites and brownfield development opportunities. This is an area that the EDIC can play a role in within the next five years. It was also reported that GMGI is participating with Maine, Northeastern, and Rhode Island, in a program called the EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge. This is a one billion dollar program that aims to boost economic recovery from the pandemic and rebuild American communities. This regional team submitted a preliminary grant application/expression of interest. There were 529 applications to the EDA Development Authority and 60 were chosen as finalists and luckily this team was one of those finalists. If chosen that would mean as much as 100 million dollars for this effort spread across Maine, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. The spot light is already on Gloucester playing a prominent role in the marine sciences. The likely role for Gloucester in this coalition would be mentoring, workforce development, and potentially piloting of bio-manufacturing. If chosen this could mean 5 years of runway funding that would be incredible for this community and development of life science capacity and industrial properties. All information needs to be in by the end of February and a final decision will be made by early summer. EDIC will be submitting a letter of report to accompany the grant application.**
- **Current Zoning Amendments being proposed: There are new zoning amendments being proposed in front of Planning & Developing on January 20th at 5:30 pm. The City is proposing to address some zoning issues and some other changes that happened thirty years ago that you can now see the impact of many years later. Pino advised the Board to listen in on the meeting and if the Board has any questions to please contact her. This proposal may be going in front of the City Council as early as January 25rd.**
- **Updates: Acting Chair Balf provided an update to the Board about the Blue Economy. The Gloucester Maritime Station received \$200,000 through ARPA money and that will be used over the next 2 years to hire staff to lead that effort and support project management.**
- **On the Energy Front: J. Oppenheim provided an initial overview of what monies are available on the Federal Infrastructure Bill. There is some hazardous funding and superfunds available for**

brownfields. Some projects require a considerable monetary match but it is something to look into further. Balf will review the material as well and he and Oppenheim will report back to the Board at the next meeting.

- **Treasurer Pino provided the Board with an update regarding the Gloucester 400 which will be opening an office on Main Street within the next 10 days. The plan is to have an office there for the next 2 years.**
- **The next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2022 at 4:30pm.**
- **A motion was passed and the meeting adjourned at 5:54pm.**