



EDIC Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 15th, 2022 at 4:30 pm
Remote Zoom Meeting

- Call to order of the Board. Meeting began at 4:32pm.
- Roll call attendance was taken. In attendance: Acting Chair Tom Balf, Tim Wood, Mike DiLascio, Treasurer Ruth Pino, Jerrold Oppenheim and Taylor Hedges. Also in attendance, Sal DiStefano, City of Gloucester’s Director of Economic Development and Felicia Webb, Chief Administrator for Cape Ann Transportation Authority, CAO Jill Cahill, and Mayor Verga.
- 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 February 15, 2022 minutes were approved. A motion to approve the minutes were made and all were in favor.
- **Board Vacancy-** Mayor Verga spoke about the current vacancy on the EDIC and has been diligently recruiting for potential new members. He asked the Board to reach out to anyone who has interest. Tom Balf informed the Board that he has spoken to two candidate who have expressed an interest in joining the EDIC. Those interested have be advised to send along a resume and cover letter to the Mayor’s Office. Tom Balf informed the Board that he has spoken to two candidate who have expressed an interest in joining the EDIC. Those interested candidates have be advised to send along a resume and cover letter to the Mayor’s Office.
- The mayor also spoke about the upcoming ARPA funding that the City received from the Federal Government and will start up a program of listening posts to determine how the city will distribute that money. The listening posts will generate feedback from the general public and help to determine where the priorities lie and how the money should be spent. The listening posts will start up sometime in April. CIAB (Capital Improvements Advisory Board) and the EDIC will be invited to participate in the listening posts.
- **Kondelin Industrial Park-** Acting Chair Balf spoke to the group about how several members of the EDIC are looking into further opportunities for the potential expansion of Kondelin Industrial Park. Some Board members would like to have a meeting with the Mayor to review the parcels

with the intent of getting funding to conduct a feasibility study. Taylor Hedges has put together a presentation that summarizes the parcels and the issues at hand. The study that would be conducted would be an updating of one that was already done many years ago by Weston and Sampson. This would include updating numbers and taking a fresh look of what can be done and what it would take. T. Hedges will be sending his presentation to the Mayor and will be scheduling a meeting.

- Organizational Issues regarding new members have been already covered. Those interested candidate will be reaching out to the Mayor's office. Hopefully in the next few months we will fill any open vacancies.
- **CATA On Demand-** We have the basis of a campaign defined on getting the word out in press releases as well as attention grabbing events like podcasts. The Chamber of Commerce has offered up space to use to conduct round table events to meet with potential sponsors. F. Webb from CATA shared a data report on the ridership for the CATA On Demand bus. The report highlighted monthly ridership and top origin destination lists. The Board agreed that there should be a feature article in the newspaper promoting the service. Carl Gustin has committed to write an article to help generate publicity. We are hoping the Mayor could take the CATA On Demand bus for the day to generate some publicity. Many riders are taking the bus to get to and from the commuter rail station. This is one year's worth of data and it will be very interesting to see the data when the workforce is no longer working remotely. To have this baseline data will be valuable to use in promoting and tracking significant growth in the work force area. We should see a significant increase in ridership when the workforce opens to full capacity. The core of the Blackburn activity is from Applied Technologies, Cape Ann Medical, Blackburn Center and Happy Valley. Program funding has not be renewed for this year. Originally the program was going to be a three year program but the Work Force Transportation has decided to no longer fund the second round of funding. Project. Webb informed the Board that there are some other grants opportunities that will be coming up this summer that CATA can apply for funding. The principle task of the EDIC is assist and support this program and to generate more corporate sponsorships. Next steps will be to share this data and release some press releases to generate program awareness and gain potential expansion. The data will also be shared with the current Administration for other funding possibilities.
- **Blackburn Industrial Park Signage-** T. Hedges provided an overview to the Board on the feedback that came from business owners regarding the current mockups of the signs and which format was preferred. Before the signage is finalized, those companies that have not responded to the project will be contacted. The quote that Jay McNiff provided came in at \$18,000.00 for the physical signage mounts which include: two masonry blocks, labor, and creating footings. Seaside Graphics provided quotes on the printing of the individual signs that will be placed. Solar lighting and maintenance of the signs will have to be accounted for as well. Spring is the perfect time for installation. Final approvals and signoffs from each participating company is needed. The EDIC will need to take control and oversee the upkeep of the signs moving forward.
- **Kondelin Road-** Potential expansion interest for Kondelin were previously discussed. S. DiStefano provided a status of the One Stop program. The city received some feedback on a

grant application that was filed and is waiting for a little more clarity about the application. DiStefano will provide an update at the next meeting.

- **Life Science Initiative Update**- The life science market continues to be incredibly hot. GMGI continues to field calls for parties that are interested in knowing what potential sites that are available to lease. The Gloucester Daily Times reported that there is some interest in Cell Signaling possibly building a new facility over near the MAC Fitness in Manchester by-the-sea.
- **Municipal Harbor Update**- There is a potential role and opportunities for the EDIC to support economic development for manufacturing and industrial activity. Is there a role for the EDIC on the harbor? Balf presented a few slides from a public meeting that was held by the Gloucester Municipal Harbor Plan on March 7, 2022. The consulting team summarized the progress to date and took a number of polls of the audience in terms of their interest as it relates to areas of economic development and flood plain protection. As Gloucester relates to a fishing port or seaport, there are opportunities and needs which need to be met. Some of the opportunities that were addressed were: the harbor infrastructure may need to adapt, ways to capture more value, encourage more seafood processing, and exploring shared harbor infrastructure. The other topic that was brought up was a comment that came out of the live poll. In Gloucester, there is a lack of port authority to act on the harbor plan or economic development. One of the poll questions that was asked was who should be responsible to oversee the harbor plan. Should it be a non-profit development corporation, a port authority or should it be filled by municipal capacity? The results came back as following: more than half liked the idea of a non-profit corporation, 40% came in with a port authority, and fewer people liked the idea of focusing all the attention on municipal capacity. There are two critical areas of the harbor plan which are Lobster Cove and Harbor Cove and the Industrial area which includes the Fish Pier, Gortons, and Americold. These are the two areas that are most likely to see industrial activity associated with fishing and the seaport. There are also large-lot industrial sites that have been identified as potential redevelopment sites for a detailed study. Many of these sites are actively used now. Moving forward could the EDIC expand their role and become more involved in the Municipal Harbor Plan? Could we add value to the harbor economy and what are some of the projects? Does the EDIC want to go back to the legislature and ask for a broader mission? Other municipalities like Lynn and Marlboro have changed their mission.
- **Financial Status**: Treasurer Ruth Pino provided a report of the financials as of January 1, 2022. The EDIC has a current balance of \$574,000.
- Next meeting is scheduled for April 19th, 2022.
- A motion was passed to end the meeting. All were in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.