



**EDIC Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 16, 2022 at 4:30pm
Remote Meeting**

- Call to Order of the Board: Chair Balf began the meeting by reading the open meeting laws:

“Open Meeting Laws: Were Read: Consistent with Ch. 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. The public may not physically attend this meeting but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real-time and participate when necessary. 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: Chair Tom Balf, Treasurer Taylor Hedges, Mike DiLascio, Patty Knaggs, and Jerrold Oppenheim. Also in attendance as a panelist, Sal Di Stefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester.
- The Board did have a quorum and the meeting minutes from June 21, 2022 were approved. Mike DiLascio made to accept the meeting June minutes and Balf seconded. All were in favor.
- Blackburn Industrial Park Signage- J. McNiff is currently meeting with the work crew and Dig Safe. Construction regarding the installation of the signage base. May hopes this work could begin in the next few weeks. T. Hedges will provide an update to the Board at the next meeting.
- Kondelin Road Expansion Feasibility Study- The approved State Budget for fiscal year 2023 includes \$40,000.00 for the EDIC to conduct a feasibility study of expansion of Kondelin Rd. The EDIC based the cost of this assessment on a 2017/18 Weston & Sampson quote of \$27,00, but also factored in a slightly larger scope and inflation. Taylor Hedges and Tom Balf had a preliminary conversation with Weston and Sampson engineers this summer and we will ask for an updated scope, timeline and budget as soon as the state monies become available. Balf expressed that this would be a priority project for the next year and he would like to create a sub-committee of sorts that would provide supervision and guidance to the selected engineering firm. Initial Subcommittee members include Balf, Hedges, and Patty Knaggs.
- **Energy Capacity Issues in Gloucester/ Blackburn Industrial Park**- Based on the input of Applied Materials and McNiff Companies, energy capacity and reliability issues

are a key area affecting growth and expansion plans. Independent energy experts have confirmed that energy capacity is a significant economic development issue affecting Cape Ann. Balf suggested that energy capacity could be another priority issue for the EDIC to focus its efforts. Increased energy capabilities would allow existing companies to expand here and provide the ability to attract new companies into the park. EDIC Board members met with Daymark Energy Advisors through an introduction from Carl Gustin. Daymark would conduct an energy capacity assessment and help us develop a strategy to engage National Grid and ensure that energy capacity and reliability for Gloucester is baked into their plans. The Board thought that the current proposal needs a little more specification, including clear deliverables and short and long-term goals. Some comments from the Board included if the EDIC would be willing to fund initial assessment and strategies, or should some of the larger industrial park tenants contribute. Balf promised to followup with McNiff and AMAT on this matter. Some other issues identified include the potential for solar programs (City or privately held parcels) and how that could be encouraged and impact energy capacity needs. In September, at the next EDIC meeting, we hope to have a better understanding of the analysis of the solar systems and how Daymark could add this to their analysis. Balf asked if this feels like an appropriate role for the EDIC to focus on? If not the EDIC than who would take on this project?

- **CATA On Demand**- M. DiLascio provided the Board with a brief update on the progress of the CATA On Demand Corporate Sponsorship program. The EDIC is awaiting feedback from local companies and corporate sponsors to partner with for CATA ON Demand. Felicia Webb is leaving CATA so there will be some transition that will be apparent. DiLascio has not been introduced to Webb's replacement. Hopefully, we can keep the momentum going and obtain some additional corporate commitments in September. We will need to continue to secure donations from a sponsorship level.
- **ARPA Funding**: T. Balf provided an update to the Board on the ARPA Funding. The City of Gloucester is currently reviewing all of the ARPA requests and within the next several months most of the funding recommendations will be made. There is nothing specific to report on our proposals to develop an industrial loan/grant program or secure financial assistance for our energy capacity and reliability initiative.
- **Industrial Park Meetings**: The Board is planning to schedule some industrial park meeting for tenants and property owners. Perhaps this is a good way of introducing the DayMark proposal to see who is interested. T. Balf will organize a meeting sometime in early November. Meeting dates to follow once we determine whether we will move forward with the DayMark proposal.
- **City of Gloucester Owned Properties**: The EDIC clerk was asked to put together some visual maps by location of all City owned properties for the EDIC to review. The maps – by neighborhood or area -- may be easier to review during an upcoming in person meeting. The maps that were produced would provide visuals of what is out there and if there is any potential for development by the EDIC or the City.
- **Municipal Harbor Plan Update**: T. Balf provided the Board with an update on the Municipal Harbor Plan. At the most recent meeting, the team's economist described the significant strengths of the fishing and seafood industry in Gloucester and identified

some general strategies to goals to further promote this significant part of our local industry. For example, the number of metric tons harvested has declined substantially, the value of that harvest is better than it used to be and current brings in roughly 52 million dollars a year to the port. Looking at economic opportunities within the fishing industry to continue to expand that and it ranges from:

- The need to bring young people in to replace an aging workforce
- The need to update the fleet
- The need to capture all of the quota that is unharvested but is available
- The need to add fish processors

There is a need for an entity or multiple entities to be responsible for an economic development plan for the harbor. Some years ago, someone in the City's Community Development office oversaw the harbor's planning and development. There is also a CDC a Harbor Community Development Corp that exists on paper that is an entity that could be utilized to both drive economic development, pursue grants, and hold folks accountable. Is there a role for the EDIC? Our current mission is tied to manufacturing and industrial activity it would have to be something associated with fish processing or ship building and repair. The Municipal Harbor Plan continues to focus on strategies and one critical component is identifying critical partners and executing the plan. Salem, New Bedford, and Portland, Maine currently have a port authority responsible for a majority of maritime activities. Currently, Gloucester does not have a dedicated entity or staff responsible for supporting the fishing or "blue economy" industries. Balf made the Board aware that there is a public meeting coming up to listen in remotely to hear facilitated conversations of what is happening on the Municipal Harbor Plan. If the Board is available please listen in. Chair Balf will forward the meeting date to the Board.

- Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20th at 4:30pm.
- DiLascio made a motion to conclude the meeting which was seconded by Hedges. All were in favor.
- Meeting was adjourned at 5:41pm.