



EDIC Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 19th, 2018

CATA Conference Room

3 Pond Road

**Board Members in attendance: B. Bernie (Chair), B. Pett, R. Pino, B. Bramhall, M. DiLascio, R. Ross.
Also in attendance: T. Gillett and J. Cunningham.**

Introduction:

- **Call to order of the Board**
- **Attendance Taken**
- **A motion was past to approve past meeting minutes from December 13, 2017.**

For Discussion:

City Matters:

Broadband

Mr. Gillett brought the Board up-to-date on Platinum Biotech and Broadband. Currently, Mr. Gillett is working on ways of connecting Broadband but the question is where. Blackburn Industrial Park does not have enough to get cable into. The City is currently working on this issue and Mr. Gillett is currently assisting in the process.

Damon Cummings/Mayor's Questions

- The EDIC was sent a series of questions relating to the EDIC function, financials, and vision. These questions need to be addressed. The Board discussed the best approach at getting these questions answered and presenting the materials to the Mayor. The EDIC's finances are in order and up-to-date. The Board agreed that Economic Development and Community Development should be involved in the meeting. The EDIC Board discussed meeting more regularly on a monthly basis and opening the lines of communication up between the Board and Elected Officials. We will reach out and invite the Mayor and relevant department heads to all EDIC meetings. The Board agreed that they would like to see the Mayor, Mr. Destino, Jill Cahill, and Sal DiStefano at our meeting and will extend the invitation. Chair Bernie and Mr. Gillett will address the questions and send the answers out to the Board to review. The questions will then be presented to the Mayor in a formal meeting.

Treasurer Pino made a statement to the Board that the EDIC needs to become more involved and visible within the City. Pino addressed the topic of Charter revision and getting this on the ballot for 2019. All the topics that need to be addressed fit in with the EDIC's role in the city. Anything that involves the future impact of the city's zoning, economic development, and housing issues should involve the EDIC. The EDIC's role has to evolve. The EDIC members and Tom Gillett need to be involved in these decisions. We want new companies coming into Gloucester and bringing new jobs but where are these people going to live? At an engagement level the EDIC needs to be informed and involved about what is happening in the city. Also, EDIC needs to be aware of what difficulties or challenges some of these developers are faced with. Pino concluded that every 10 years the Charter needs to be reviewed. Gloucester is required in 2020 to look at the City Charter anyway. In 2019, we need to get this on the ballot. Pino was quoted, "The EDIC Board is looking to build Gloucester's future, and we need to get involved in everything."

Current Projects:

- The EDIC has a lot of projects on deck. No one from the City is actually pursuing these except for the EDIC. Mr. Gillett gave an update on Terraverde which is a biotech manufacturing company. The GMGI is missing the link in biotech manufacturing. The owner of Terraverde would like to establish a company in Gloucester and has tremendous potential. Mr. Gillett has reviewed the business plan which includes a 50,000 sq. ft. capacity and will the company quickly outgrow this building? Mr. Gillett has introduced the Terraverde owner's to SwanNet to be able to accommodate the space in which Terraverde needs.

Fund Raising:

Tom Gillett is currently working on finding funds and relative GRANTS to apply for.

EDIC History:

The EDIC is working to develop new projects and applying for GRANTS and needs an overview created of the EDIC's history. This information can also be used on the website. The recording secretary proposed 2 ideas to the Board and will get back to the Board with pricing on hiring a freelance copy writer to assist.

Industrial Parks:

- Mr. Gillett provided an overview on the Blackburn CI Works project. May 1st is the official move in date. CI Works creates a monthly newsletter that the EDIC Board expressed in interest in receiving. The newsletter comes out 1X per month.
- Kondelin- Beaver Solutions annual service contract is up for payment. The Board passed a motion to retain Beaver Solutions services and the yearly service contract. All in favor except B. Bernie (Chair). A motion was passed to continue this service.
- UMass Environmental Impact Study Proposal. UMass has the services needed to conduct and this study. We are still in need of a professional analysis of the environmental impact on the 400 acres. This would be an educational study and graduate students would be doing this project. UMass came back with a cost of \$42,000. Could we find a GRANT that would cover this cost? Could the EDIC afford to find this study? This study would then provide the necessary information needed if a new industrial park can be built on the 400 acres. UMass came up with a written proposal which will be reviewed by the Board. Mr. Pett will look into if the state

funds we have would allow the EDIC to use a portion of this money to fund this study. Mr. DiLasco asked how convincing and bullet proof would this study be before we commit and say yes. No one has ever looked at this 400 acre parcel of land before. R.Pino requested a print out of the site and where it connects to route 128. An economic study was produced 10 years ago by Weston and Sampson. This was the only place left in Gloucester to develop. The question that we need to know is if there would there be an environmental impact? Can we environmentally build a park on these 400 acres? The current funding from the state is for the interchange and not for the park itself. We would be basing our decisions on data that was acquired 10 years ago when it would have cost 17 million just for the water and sewer to be built. State and federal funds would need to be involved. If a new industrial park were to be built then we would need to get investors involved. B. Pett will follow up on the status of the state funds.

- Motion was passed to adjourn meeting at 8:10pm