



EDIC Board Meeting Minutes

Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

- Call to order of the Board
- Meeting began at 4:30pm
- In attendance: Interim Chair B. Bramhall, Treasurer R. Pino, M. DiLascio, Jerry Oppenheim, Tom Balf, and T. Hedges. Absent: T. Wood. Also, in attendance: Dick Prouty and Jerry Ackerman from the Climate Change Coalition, Attorney for the EDIC, John Cunningham, Sal DiStefano, Director of Economic Development for the City of Gloucester, and Bill Sanborn, Building Inspector for the City of Gloucester.
- A motion was passed to approve the meeting minutes from Minutes from the July 14th, 2020 meeting. All were in favor.
- **Kondelin Park**: T. Hedges provided a recap of the reopening of the businesses in the industrial parks. All is status quo. All the industrial parks have been doing a good job at reopening. Hedges brought up to the Board that Kondelin Road in general is in tough shape. The DPW has started to do some improvements. However, a plan needs to be developed by property owners to be able to address issues and make those improvements. Hedges will get group together from Kondelin and set up a meeting with property owners to discuss next steps and funding.
- **Happy Valley**: Happy Valley had a successful opening with no problems to report. The EDIC wishes Happy Valley well in their new venture and welcomes them to the Blackburn Park.
- **New Signage**: Signage is ongoing for the industrial parks and more quotes will be needed. The original proposal for signage for Blackburn came in at \$300,000. The signage task force came up with a plan to tweak the original model of the project to bring down costs. The EDIC's plan is to get additional bids and to control some aspects of the project like the initial set up and outsource the rest. More information to follow.
- **Climate Change Coalition**: Mr. Prouty and Mr. Ackerman presented to the Board. The Climate Change Coalition group sponsors include:
 - Climate Change Coalition: This Coalition is a group that was put together to develop a plan for Cape Ann and surrounding areas to better respond to climate change. They have engaged with academic groups in Boston to take us to the next steps.
 - Town Green 2025: To reduce carbon footprint
 - Gloucester Meeting House Foundation
 - Project management by Harvard Graduate School of Design

- The goals of this group include: An integrated overview of how Cape Ann can respond to climate change for marine, land, and building environments. This Coalition is looking for new efficiencies and funding opportunities.
- There are 4 municipalities that are threatened by sea level rising
 - Gloucester and Essex still have waste treatment facilities
 - Highway and road access, rail corridor/ Routes 127, 128 and 133 are all vulnerable
 - Shared marine environment
 - Interconnected economy- net zero affordable housing for tomorrow's workforce
- Current Planning Status
 - Preliminary literature and data study underway
 - Harvard Graduate School of Design/ MIT Team
 - Citizen and Civic Leader input
 - This will be a year long study from January 2021 to January 2022
- Endorsements and Engagements to Date:
 - Gloucester Mayor interviewed and is supportive
 - Manchester by the Sea Town Administrator and Selectman are supportive
 - Rockport and Essex engagement underway to work with Gloucester Grants for stage 2 funding
 - Seth Moulton letter of support agreed on
 - Coalition will reach out to Senator Tarr and State Representative Ferrante for additional support
- Costs for Stage 1 and Stage 2
 - Looking for small donations from 90 people ranging from \$100 to \$1,000.
 - \$25,000 has been raised and was completed 2 weeks ago
 - Stage 2 funding: The goal is to raise between a \$175,000 to \$200,000 and funding will start this month for the launch of a full study in January 2021.
 - There has been pushback from some Massachusetts communities to collaborate together.
- There are many studies taking place regarding climate change:
 - Trustees of the Reservation- privately funded project to look at rising sea levels on marsh environments.
 - MADC coming out with a similar project. The rising sea level is a part of it. Mitigation, adaptation, rising heat levels, and how to get more resilience in the economy.
 - Harvard looks at this from a worldwide view
 - Also, looking at solar potential usage after a storm like Hurricane Sandy.
 - The Harvard Graduate School of Design is under the direction of Professor Charles Walthiem who spearheads the group. They have worked on similar projects for Los Angeles and Miami Beach.
 - Our current sewer plant is below sea level and is antiquated.
 - The data collected will be used in the planning for grant applications and provide the opportunity to work collectively and in collaboration with other municipalities. We

need to address this issue collectively has a group. What are we going to do with rising sea levels and the homes that are in the way and contaminated ground water?

- This study will provide case studies with benchmarks of how other communities have dealt with these issues.
- The EDIC will regroup and discuss this further at their next meeting. Perhaps the EDIC can become involved in some of the Coalition's upcoming meetings.
- **Hiltz/ Kondelin Road:** On going efforts to assist Hiltz in the clean-up of their property continues. The issue still at hand is the dumpsters along the front edge of the building. Dumpsters are visible from the road. The Board would like to know if these are dumpsters need to be repaired or are scrap dumpsters. The portion of the property in question is not permitted to use this area as a junk yard. The Building Department is looking for a solution and the Zoning Board has been dealing with this for the past 2 years. The Zoning Board would like this resolved by their next meeting on August 27th. The EDIC supports to have the dumpsters screened off and not be stacked. The road access area is also questionable. The EDIC would like to know the history of how this land has been used. Further action will be taken by the EDIC.
- **EDIC's Workman's Comp:** Attorney Cunningham advised the Board that it is best to be covered and the EDIC will continue carrying workman's comp for it's employee.
- **Nest meeting:** Tuesday, September 8th, 2020 at 4:30pm
- **Meeting adjourned at 6:02pm.**