



**Town of Dighton**  
**Development and Industrial Commission**  
979 Somerset Avenue  
Dighton, MA 02715  
Tel: (508) 669-6431

**MINUTES FOR February 27, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Joseph Figueiredo, Daniel Higgins, Jon Geggatt, Leonard Hull, Paul Reynolds

NEW BUSINESS:

**1. Update on FY '24 budget and potential future project funding needs.**

The proposed FY '24 budget has been submitted. No communication has yet been received about the dates for review for the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, or Finance Committee.

**2. Discuss/Review/Act on Election of new officers.**

It was decided to postpone this discussion until more commission members could be present.

Darlene Araujo, liaison from the Farming Community, had sent correspondence that she would be resigning due to time constraints. Dan Higgins requested that she send that request to the Board of Selectmen.

**3. Discuss/Act/Approve drone videography proposal.**

During previous meetings it had been discussed to contract with Pinnacle Drone Works to create raw drone video footage (2-3 minutes each) of up to ten sites in town. The footage would be used for future marketing material to attract new businesses.

Motion made by Joseph Figueiredo to contract with Pinnacle Drone Works for raw video footage of 2-3 minutes per site at a cost of \$75 per site for the following locations conditional upon receiving necessary site access and permission from any property owners:

- Town Hall campus, on Somerset Ave
- Manheim New England and nearby Dighton Water District, on Williams St
- A local horse stable – site TBD
- A local farm – site TBD
- Shaw's Boatyard, on Main St

- Mill complex, at 620 Spring St
- Dighton Power, on Somerset Ave
- A public Town Boat Ramp
- County St businesses (roughly 0.3 mile stretch from 1881 County St to 2050 County St/intersection with Main St)
- Bristol County Agricultural High School (conditional on whether such video footage already exists and the School is willing to make a copy available to the Town for use)

Second Paul Reynolds.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Discuss any new businesses interests in town**

None identified since last meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

**5. Update on posting of Dighton local business directory on Town website.**

The site was launched on the town website last week, and currently has 24 businesses listed. Dan Higgins has exchanged emails with an additional eight businesses about potentially being listed. He has also been contacted by a reporter from the Taunton Gazette about an article to be done regarding the new site. All feedback to date has been positive.

**6. Update on suggested revisions to town Home Occupation Zoning bylaws.**

The proposed revisions are still being reviewed by the town PAC committee. Given the time constraints for a warrant article for the next Town Meeting and the need to also review this with the Planning Board, any proposed changes will likely be delayed to the next Special Town Meeting.

**7. Review SRPEDD discussion with Mike Mullen/Dan Higgins.**

The Town Administrator will be submitting a grant request for a consultant to assist in a town-wide review of the current Zoning.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. Correspondence was received from John Pappanikou of Boston Sash & Millwork, Inc of Spring St regarding possible assistance from the DDIC in recruiting employees.

After discussion, several other local businesses were identified who are also looking to hire. It was proposed that the DDIC sponsor a Job Fair to help line up local employers and employees.

Jon Geggatt agreed to reach out to local businesses and schools and see what was feasible.

- b. Correspondence was received from Lisa DeMelo of the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce regarding potential dates for a 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Business Networking Event. A list of possible dates was provided.

The commission agreed to participate in another Business Networking Event and Dan Higgins will respond to Lisa regarding the proposed dates.

- c. Correspondence was received from Leeanne Kerwin of the Board of Selectman's office that the deadline for the Annual Report of the DDIC for inclusion at Town Meeting is April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Dan Higgins agreed to draft a report to be discussed at the March meeting.

PUBLIC INPUT: none

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Paul Reynolds to approve meeting minutes of January 23, 2022. Second Joe Figueiredo.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### SET NEXT MEETING DATE

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to set the meeting date as Monday March 27, 2023, at 6pm. Second Paul Reynolds.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 pm. Second Paul Reynolds.

**Motion passed unanimously.**