

# DIGHTON DEVELOPMENT INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

## MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm

PRESENT: Michael Mullen, Leonard Hull, Patricia Barlow, Rafael Delfin, Joseph Figueiredo, Daniel Higgins, Jonathon Geggatt, Lizeth Gonzalez.

### NEW BUSINESS:

#### Timelines/Action Items for SRPEDD

Lizeth Gonzalez from SRPEDD is to work with the Town to create an implementable plan for economic development. She stressed that her role is to listen to guidance from the DDIC and provide:

- technical support: data gathering, maps, numbers
- creative support: branding and creating a clear identity for the plan to facilitate community support
- deliver a final economic development plan

In addition to meeting with the DDIC, she also envisions at least two public workshops, possibly one in person and one on-line, to solicit feedback and suggestions. Although traditional economic plans focus exclusively on job creation and financial return, she understands that Dighton wishes to incorporate how to best do that while maintaining Dighton's rural character, open spaces, farmland, and the unique character of the town.

First drafts were presented for logo and branding of the plan itself to make it readily identifiable to the town. Suggestions were made and she will come back with some alternatives.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Selectman Leonard Hull provided an update on the proposed solar array at the Dighton Transfer Station. An upcoming meeting with DEP (Mass Department of Environmental Protection) will be held to discuss what is possible.
2. Budget recommendations for FY'23 will be reviewed by the Board of Selectmen at their next regular meeting. Town Manager Michael Mullen will be making his recommendations this week.
3. Next meeting set for Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The recommendation was made to meet in March on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday instead of our regular 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month to allow time for review of the initial data gathering effort from SRPEDD which is expected around March 21<sup>st</sup>.
4. Jonathon Geggatt and the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce have spoken further with Bristol County Agricultural High School on hosting a business networking event, most likely in the June timeframe due to venue scheduling with the school. The school is absorbing costs for use of the venue and the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce will be sponsoring the event.

### CORRESPONDENCE:

Lauren Harwood sent an email resigning as the representative from the Bristol County Agricultural High School due to time constraints. Selectman Leonard Hull will contact the school for a nomination on a new representative.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Joseph Figueiredo made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm and Rafael Delfin seconded the motion.

The next meeting will be on Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.