



Town of Dighton
Development and Industrial Commission

979 Somerset Avenue

Dighton, MA 02715

Tel: (508) 669-6431

MINUTES FOR May 23, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm

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

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Lizeth Gonzalez presented the latest SRPEDD draft of the Economic Development data gathering/data survey. It was agreed that the next steps are the development of a town survey to gauge the residents' opinion on the level and type of business development for the town.

The discussion included existing Zoning Districts such as the purpose of Village District overlay, Medical District, existing size of Cannabis District, and opportunities to expand onto Rte 44 for both Mixed Use and Commercial Use. For most of the town infrastructure remains a challenge in maximizing opportunities.

A couple of landowners along Route 44 are looking at "light industrial" commercial growth but that will involve planning and more discussion with what Town will support/interested in. The commission may invite landowners to speak at a future meeting regarding their plans. Per Planning Board liaison Joseph Figueiredo, it would not be an issue to have them discuss their plans with the DDIC prior to meeting with the Planning Board.

2. MOTION made to adopt the logo designed by SRPEDD for the Economic Development Plan
 - a. Motion made by Tom Bourquin. Seconded by Jon Geggatt
Motion passed unanimously
3. The Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce (TACC) Business Networking event will be the week of Sept 21 at Bristol County Agricultural High School. The High School has donated use of their facilities as the venue and multiple TACC member companies have donated funds to cover the expense. Once a specific date/time has been set we can begin advertising the event.
4. Per the Bristol County Agricultural High School, it is not possible at this time to appoint a representative to the commission due to scheduling. Leonard Hull recommended requesting that the Board of Selectmen revise the position to be an at-large representative of the Dighton farming community.
 - a. MOTION to request the Board of Selectmen to change the existing position of Bristol County Agricultural High School representative to that of an at-large representative of

the Dighton farming community.

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo. Second: Tom Bourquin

Motion passed unanimously

5. Per Mike Mullen a revised TIF Board is requesting a liaison from the DDIC
 - a. MOTION to appoint Dan Higgins as the TIF liaison made by Patty Barlow. Second Tom Bourquin
Motion passed unanimously.
6. The Dighton Parks & Recreation is inviting all Town committees to set up a table at the July 9th Firecracker Festival. It was discussed whether we should attend and if so, distribute any items with our logo. Rafael Delfin and Dan Higgins will investigate the cost of magnetic calendars with the DDIC logo
 - a. MOTION to attend the Firecracker Festival by Tom Bourquin. Second Jon Geggatt
Motion passed unanimously.
7. It was discussed whether to request the Board of Selectmen to approve a DDIC Facebook page on the Town site as well as on the Town LinkedIn page. Jon Geggatt mentioned that Mattapoisett is using their LinkedIn page to promote new business.
 - a. MOTION made to request permission from the Board of Selectmen by Patty Barlow. Second Tom Bourquin
Motion passed unanimously.
8. It was agreed that the meeting agenda will include a standing item on progress regarding remediation/repurposing of the Zeneca site. Mike agreed to reach out to the company and set up an off-line meeting to see what their plans are for mediation/repurposing.
9. It was agreed that the meeting agenda will include a standing item on new business activity in Town.
 - 1Connection officially opened their doors on Friday May 20th. Congratulations to them.
 - Pure Oasis has passed a final hurdle from the Planning Board on sign off. The company would still need to come before Planning Board if lease space to additional growers at the site. Congratulations to them.
 - Puddle Jumpers Quilts has opened at 1901 County St as of May 7th. Congratulations to them.
 - Dighton Centre (1901 County St) updated their web site to announce that their 2nd floor renovations are almost complete and will begin leasing commercial space. Congratulations to them.
 - Coastal Cultivars of Boston reached out to the Town about establishing a cannabis dispensary on Rte 44. That area is not zoned for that purpose but nonetheless they would like to talk with town and hopefully see if there are any plans to look at Rte 44 zoning again. They were referred to Town Administrator Mike Mullen and to the Planning Board.
10. Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to approve the April 4 2022 meeting minutes. Second Jon Geggatt
Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS: none

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PUBLIC INPUT: A custom yacht builder attended the meeting and advised that he is in negotiations to purchase Shaw's Boatyard and requested information on their next steps with the Town. Dan Higgins

agreed to arrange for him to meet with Mike Mullen, Building Commissioner Jim Aguiar, and Planning Board Office Manager Kerrie Easterday to discuss next steps.

NEXT MEETING: 6/27/22 6:00pm Old Town Hall

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned 8:00pm.