



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

MINUTES FOR July 25, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:06pm. This was a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

PRESENT: Leonard Hull, Peter Caron, Rafael Delfin, Joseph Figueiredo, Daniel Higgins, Darlene Araujo, Thomas Bourquin, Mike Thibodeau, Bill Mariano

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The commission welcomed Darlene Araujo as the newly appointed member representing the Dighton Farming Community.
2. Discussed proposal for Rte 44 Industrial Park

Motion made by Joseph Figueiredo to take item out of order. Second Rafael Delfin.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Thibodeau and Bill Mariano own a combination of 75 acres along Route 44 and are interested in developing their property for retail/commercial use. The current zoning for the area is Business which should be sufficient for the planned use of the land. Selectman Hull has been talking with the City of Taunton and Congressman Jake Auchincloss about possibilities/costs for extending sewer down Route 44. The planning by Mike Thibodeau and Bill Mariano is still in an early planning stage and may come back to the commission in the future to any discuss further development.

3. Reviewed draft Town-wide business needs survey from SRPEDD

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to take item out of order. Second Rafael Delfin
Motion passed unanimously.

The draft online version has been posted and is available to the commission members for review. The proposal is to post the survey to the public sometime in early August and leave it online for at least two to three months. Dan Higgins will work for Town Administrator Mike Mullen to coordinate with SRPEDD to set a go live date. Hopefully some initial results will be available for review by the August regular DDIC meeting.

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to have Dan Higgins work with SRPEDD and set a go live sometime during the first two weeks of August. Second Thomas Bourquin.

Motion passed unanimously.

4. Discussed Dighton agricultural business needs.

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to take item out of order. Second Joe Figueiredo

Motion passed unanimously.

There was some discussion about the value of Land Trusts for any existing farms that may be looking to sell land in the next few years. It was decided to refer that discussion to the Open Space Committee but with a willingness for the DDIC to cooperate with Open Space if requested, with a view to promoting agricultural business interests.

5. Discussed content guidelines to be used by site admin for DDIC Facebook and LinkedIn sites

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to take item out of order. Second Joe Figueiredo

Motion passed unanimously.

Given the restrictions in the town social media policy on postings that promote a specific commercial interest or may cause a financial advantage, or disadvantage, to any given parties, it is important that any DDIC postings do not violate that policy. The question is how does the DDIC promote business interests while not referencing specific businesses and promoting individual interests. It was recommended that Dan Higgins get further guidance from Town Administrator Mike Mullen and development a draft set of guidelines for review at a future meeting.

6. Report progress on Zeneca site

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to take item out of order. Second Thomas Bourquin.

Motion passed unanimously.

Per Selectman Hull, there have been citizen complaints about the upkeep of their properties. The DDIC item for Zeneca is in relation to possible future use of the Zeneca site and ongoing cleanup so that the land can safely be put back into commercial use. Town Administrator Mike Mullen is setting up a meeting with the company to discuss a range of issues including those raised by the DDIC.

7. Discussed "New businesses interests in town"

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to take item out of order. Second Joe Figueiredo

Motion passed unanimously.

A new fitness/training studio, ENL Training, came before the Planning Board to obtain a permit for a new facility on Williams St. It is a mixed use zoning area and they will be renovating an existing barn. Dan Higgins will reach out to the owners to ask if they are planning a grand opening and what the date will be. The commission wishes them good luck and hope to see

them open and in business soon.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Discussed planning for Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce Dighton/Berkley business networking event Sept 21st

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to take item out of order. Second Joe Figueiredo
Motion passed unanimously.

At a previous meeting, Jon Geggatt advised that the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce will be requesting a \$10 per person attendance fee for the September Networking event. It was proposed that the Chamber would waive that fee for Dighton businesses if the DDIC would become an event sponsor.

Motion made by Joe Figueiredo to donate \$250 to become a sponsor of the Taunton Area Chamber of Commerce Dighton/Berkley Business Networking event in September. Second Thomas Bourquin.

Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PUBLIC INPUT: none

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to approve the meeting minutes for December 20 2021 and June 27 2022. Second Joe Figueiredo.

Motion passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to set next meeting for August 22 at 6pm. Second Rafael Delfin.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Thomas Bourquin to adjourn meeting. Second Rafael Delfin. Meeting adjourned 8:24pm

Motion passed unanimously.