



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

MINUTES FOR September 26, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Rafael Delfin, Joseph Figueiredo, Daniel Higgins, Jon Geggatt, Michael Mullen, Leonard Hull, Lizeth Gonzalez

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discuss first post-Survey public forum.

Motion made by Joseph Figueiredo to set public forum date for November 7th 2022 from 6pm to 8pm at Old Town Hall. Second Jon Geggatt.

Motion passed unanimously.

Different formats were discussed. It was agreed that the forum will be set up with multiple discussion tables/stations each dedicated to a separate topic, and each table managed by a DDIC member. Dan Higgins will meet with Lizeth Gonzalez (SRPEDD) prior to the October regular meeting to develop the plan in more details, and present at the October meeting for discussion.

2. Discuss feedback from September 21st TACC Business Networking event, business visits by Jon Geggatt/Dan Higgins, and updated survey results.

Approximately nineteen (19) Dighton businesses signed up for the TACC Business Networking Event, plus sponsors and town officials. Of those about thirteen (13) businesses were able to attend. Some of the feedback received was that attendees were very appreciative of the opportunity to network and discuss their needs with some of the sponsors (e.g., SEED, banks) as well as with the Town. The TACC is proposing to their Board of Directors to make this an annual event.

There is a concern that more needs to be done in terms of outward communication in terms of how to proceed with permitting, starting a new business in Town, etc. The Town does have a very well written business guide on the Town website, but not all parties are aware of the guide. Per Michael Mullen, last Fall a team from different Town departments was created to track all permitting applications that have been held up to try to triage any issues and help facilitate those applications.

Other comments and concerns were heard regarding Town infrastructure (sewer, water, etc).

Per Leonard Hull, he received feedback that the Town needs to be more proactive in reviewing its current business zoning. Some areas are zoned Industrial/Business but are not really useful for that purpose. Dan Higgins also raised possible revisions to zoning for Home Based Businesses, which was also raised by residents during visits leading up the TACC business event. Mike agreed that a review of current zoning with recommendations to the Planning Board is part of the charter of the Economic Development Plan.

Jon Geggatt mentioned having reached out to Westport Rivers Winery, whose owners are from Dighton and former neighbors of his, to invite them to a future meeting and discuss possible business opportunities in Dighton.

3. **Progress report on Zeneca site**

Zeneca did attend the September 14th Selectmen's Meeting regarding their continued cleanup of their parcels running from Main St down to Muddy Cove and Pleasant St. It will be a multi-year effort. They did mention that it is too early to identify future use for the sites but did refer to some potential options.

OLD BUSINESS: none

CORRESPONDENCE: none

PUBLIC INPUT: none

APPROVAL OF August 22 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Motion made by Jon Geggatt to approve the meeting minutes for July 25 2022. Second Joseph Figueiredo.

Motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion made by Rafael Delfin to adjourn meeting. Second Jon Geggatt. Meeting adjourned 7:34pm

Motion passed unanimously.