

# OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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## Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Committee ACCEPTED MINUTES OF THE MEETING January 16, 2021

This meeting was held by remote participation (Zoom) pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law dated March 12, 2020.

The meeting recording is available for viewing at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NqY2aB1vE90&feature=youtu.be>

### Meeting Attendance

<i>Voting Member</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
John Murray, Co-chair	MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center		x
Maryellen Brett, Co-chair	Massasoit Community College	x	
Christopher Cooney	Metro South Chamber of Commerce		x
Debra Pettey	Town of Hanson		x
Forrest Lindwall			x
Frank Lynam			x
Jason Hunter	MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board	x	
Jay Pateakos	MassDevelopment	x	
Jennifer Burke	Town of Bridgewater		x
Lee Hartmann	Town of Plymouth		x
Marline Amedee	Haitian Community Partners		x
Mary Ellen DeFrias	MassDevelopment	x	
Michael Lambert	Brockton Area Transit		x
Pamela McCarthy	Town of Stoughton		x
Pelege Marcellin	Brockton Home Health Agency		x
Rob May	City of Brockton	x	
Robert Downey	Town of Kingston		x
Rose Paquette	Massasoit Community College		x
Sean Boucher	Eastern Bank		x
Sheila Sullivan-Jardim	MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center		x
Stephanie Danielson	Town of Easton	x	
Tracey Costa	Ransom Environmental		x
Valerie Massard	Town of Duxbury		x

### Others Present

- John Costa, OCPC Council Delegate for the Town of Avon

## **OCPC Staff Present**

- Dottie Fulginiti, Economic Recovery Planner
- Laurie Muncy, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development
- Joanne Zygmunt, Senior Economic Development and Environmental Planner
- Ray Guarino, Principal Transportation Planner

## **Minutes**

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m., welcomed everyone, and conducted a roll call. Six Voting Members were present, four OCPC staff, and one guest. The Title VI Statement was read.

Mary Ellen DeFrias made a motion to accept the Minutes of December 15, 2020. Rob May seconded. The motion passed unanimously with guest John Costa abstaining.

Joanne Zygmunt, Senior Economic Development and Environmental Planner, was introduced in her new role at OCPC. Laurie Muncy, OCPC, then provided some background information about Joanne and stated that Joanne would be the committee liaison. Joanne stated that future meetings will include some committee reorganization.

Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC, then provided an overview of what the CEDS is. The CEDS is the regional, five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy developed under the direction of this committee. Dottie stressed the important of municipalities including their economic development project(s) and what they want to do in the CEDS. The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) specifically looks to fund projects in CEDS. Communities withing to apply to the EDA for grants should, therefore, ensure their projects are referenced in the Old Colony CEDS.

Dottie continued by presenting an overview of what the CEDS goals are and what municipal priority projects are included in the CEDS. The slides are available at <http://ocpcrpa.org/ceds.html>. The CEDS is available at the same link. Rob May stated that the current CEDS looks incredible compared to previous years. Rob May asked whether the CEDS timeline was five years. Dottie said yes and stated that Annual Progress Reports are due, too. Maryellen asked Rob to elaborate on his comment that this document was improved. Rob stated that it is improved tremendously graphically as well as in its organization, and credited Joanne and Laurie Muncy, OCPC, for their efforts in these regards. Maryellen stated that the work of the CEDS is critically important but dense, and that visually presenting it well is very important to helping readers digest the information. Clean, simple, and easy to navigate helps engage more communities and more people. Dottie noted that it is a useful document for communities to see what is happening across the region, and helps communities develop their cases for project grant funding.

Dottie asked if people would be interested in hearing from communities' experience developing and implementing projects. Stephanie Danielson agreed that the committee as more of a working group would be welcome. Rob May agreed with Stephanie. Jay Pateakos agreed and said the committee needed more community involvement. Getting towns to talk about what they're doing would hopefully encourage other communities to participate in CEDS. Stephanie stated that talking more about who is doing what would help identify synergies across the region. Dottie stated that sharing would facilitate cooperation and collaboration.

The members then provided updates. Jason Hunter stated that MassHire was having a job fair on January 26. He stated that there are trainings coming up. The Career Center is still running virtually, and most services are available by phone and online.

Maryellen announced the current Massasoit President will be retiring; an interim president has been selected. She has a background in the arts and career services. Maryellen also stated that Massasoit had recently completed a grant that involved the City of Brockton. The IT Essentials Program resulted in two IT credentials for the 15 participants who went through the program. They also have an ESOL Medical Assistant program in the pipeline. Maryellen stated that IT and medical are among the highest areas of employment.

Mary Ellen DeFrias congratulated Rob May and the City of Brockton for successfully winning a grant for brownfields redevelopment. She noted MassDevelopment has a new CEO who is a former mayor of a Gateway City. Jay expects more work with municipalities in future, including marketing initiatives.

Stephanie stated that the #EastonOutside campaign is still underway in Easton. A public forum resulted in support for continuing the campaign. The community is really leading the effort, which includes social media videos and signage. The town is looking to expand the campaign through a grant. Dottie emphasized that business don't have resources to run campaigns themselves, so they were welcoming the collaborative community campaigning. Dottie said that the campaign was helping connect business with each other.

Rob is hoping that more funding opportunities become available.

John Costa stated that this was his first meeting. He asked whether he could share information about the CEDS and CEDS Committee. Dottie welcomed his effort. Members welcomed John.

Ray Guarino stated that OCPC is working on a climate change transportation study and on road safety audits.

The next meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, February 16 at 12 noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.

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Submitted by Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC

Approved on February 16, 2021