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**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2022, 12 noon**

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.

Voting Member Attendance

		<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 Roberts	Stoughton Select Board	x	
Jack Riley	HarborOne Bank	x	
Jason Hunter	MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board	x	
Jennifer DeBoisBriand	Town of Bridgewater	x	
Lea Filson	See Plymouth		x
Mary Ellen DeFrias	MassDevelopment	x	
Michael Lambert	Brockton Area Transit	x (Joseph Mech)	
Pamela McCarthy	Town of Stoughton	x	
Rob May	City of Brockton	x (John Fay)	
Stephen Cole	Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation		x
Stephanie Danielson	Town of Easton		x
Valerie Massard	Town of Kingston	x	

Others Present

- Dr. Jared Auclair, Northeastern University and BioConnects New England
- Jay Pateakos, MassDevelopment
- Kyle Haas, Swell Energy
- Evan Sears, City of Brockton
- Mary Harris, Massasoit Community College
- Liz Shea, Town of Abington

OCPC Staff Present

- Joanne Zygmunt, Senior Economic Development and Environmental Planner
- Dottie Fulginiti, Economic Recovery Planner
- Megan Fournier for Mary Waldron, Executive Director

Minutes

Co-chair John Murray opened the meeting at 12:09 p.m., welcomed everyone, and read the accessibility statement. Roll call was taken. Eleven voting members were present, six others, and three OCPC staff.

A motion was made (McCarthy) and seconded (Riley) to accept the minutes from the meeting on March 8, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Zygmunt updated the committee on membership and recruitment. Current members will be up for reappointment at the OCPC Governing Council's Annual Meeting on June 29. A new member, Kyle Haas of Swell Energy, will be up for appointment. Three seats remain open. Members were welcomed to make recommendations.

Zygmunt provided an update on webinars. The next is planned for July on a date to be confirmed. The proposed topic is the infrastructure bill, role of infrastructure in economic development, and insights into how the Old Colony Metropolitan Planning Organization works. The topic for the October webinar is proposed to be regional collaboration on water and sewer. For the November webinar, the proposed topic is tips for attracting good developers to your community. Members are welcomed to suggest topics at any time.

Members provided updates.

- Murray shared that federal funding is coming through to vocational-technical schools to develop job training programs, such as in culinary arts and automotive tech. More funds for job training programs are expected.
- Hunter shared that the youth services program is accepting applications for summer jobs. More information at www.masshiregbwb.org
- Roberts shared that at a recent Massachusetts Municipal Association meeting rising inflation and the rising costs of labor, energy, and other goods and services were of concern to municipalities.
- Murray shared that the Career Center is happy to help advertise municipal and private sector jobs.

Fulginiti introduced guest speaker Dr. Jared Auclair, co-lead of the BioConnects New England coalition, Associate Dean of Professional Program and Graduate Affairs in the College of Science at Northeastern University, and Associate Teaching Professor in the department of chemistry and chemical biology.

Dr. Auclair presented to the group about Bioconnects New England (<https://bioconnectsne.com>), a coalition creating an inclusive biomanufacturing industry by leveraging the region's robust biotech ecosystem. The committee members and other present proceeded to discuss biotech opportunities in the region.

The coalition was formed through a successful Build Back Better Regional Challenge grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration: <https://eda.gov/arpa/build-back->

[better/finalists/Northeastern-University.htm](#). The multi-state coalition across Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, led by Northeastern University, aims to connect hubs throughout New England to support a biomanufacturing cluster. The coalition would support existing and new biomanufacturing infrastructure as a pathway to the good jobs of tomorrow for underserved and distressed regions throughout the Northeast. If provided an implementation grant, the coalition proposes to support biomanufacturing of monoclonal antibodies and other emerging areas such as cell/gene RNA/DNA therapeutics that represent global strengths of the region. To ensure a new generation of workers can benefit from the region's biomanufacturing cluster, the coalition proposes a number of interventions to provide an on-ramp into the biotechnology sector for individuals without a four-year college degree to secure a stable, high-quality biomanufacturing

In addition to reviewing the website, the coalition is active on social media:

- <https://www.facebook.com/BioConnects-New-England-100146602577352>
- <https://www.instagram.com/bioconnectsne>
- <https://twitter.com/BioConnectsNE>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/bioconnects-new-england>

Municipalities, organizations, and groups interested in partnering with BioConnects New England to further the commitment to creating a robust biomanufacturing industry in New England can email team@bioconnectsne.com.

In other business, Zygmunt updated the committee that Annual Reports for the regional CED Strategy were now available at <http://www.ocpcrpa.org/ceds.html>. There was no other business or public comment.

The next CEDS Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, September 13 at 12 noon. A motion to adjourn was made (McCarthy) and seconded (DeBoisBriand). The motion carried without dissent. The meeting adjourned at 1:04 p.m.

Submitted by Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC
Accepted on 09/13/2022