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Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee
DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Tuesday, January 17, 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

	Member	Organization	Present	Absent
1	John Murray, Co-Chair	MassHire Greater Brockton Career Center		x
2	Maryellen Brett, Co-Chair	Massasoit Community College		x
3	Jason Hunter	MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board	x	
4	Christopher Cooney	Metro South Chamber of Commerce		x
5	Pamela McCarthy	Town of Stoughton	x	
6	Rob May	City of Brockton	John Fay	
7	Stephanie Danielson	Town of Easton	x	
8	Jay Pateakos	MassDevelopment		x
9	Robert Rulli	Town of Bridgewater	x	
10	Valerie Massard	Town of Kingston	Joined after rollcall	
11	Lea Filson	See Plymouth		x
12	Michael Lambert	Brockton Area Transit Authority	Joe Mech	
13	Debra Roberts	Stoughton Select Board	Joined after rollcall	
14	Stephen Cole	Plymouth Regional Economic Development Foundation	x	
15	Jack Reilly	Harbor One Bank		x
16	Kyle Haas	Capgemini		x

Others Present:

Tricia White, NeighborWorks Housing Solutions
Cindy Pendergast, NeighborWorks Housing Solutions
Laura Buckley, South Shore Workforce Investment Board
Mary Ellen DeFrias, GATRA
Nicole Salvo

OCPC Staff Present

- Don Sullivan, Director, Economic Resiliency and Housing Equity
- Dottie Fulginiti, Senior Planner, Economic Resiliency and Housing Equity
- Mary Waldron, Executive Director

Dottie Fulginiti opened the meeting at 12:02 pm and welcomed everyone. Dottie Fulginiti read the accessibility statement. Roll call was taken. Nine voting members were present, five others, and three OCPC staff.

Minutes

A motion was made: (McCarthy) and seconded (Hunter) to accept the minutes from the meeting on September 13, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee size update:

Dottie Fulginiti updated the committee on membership and recruitment. There are currently 16 members. The bylaws allow for 19. There is more interest from potential members than the bylaws allow.

A motion was made: (Mech) and seconded (Massard) to increase membership to 25. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee chair update:

There is one open seat for co-chair in addition to Mary Ellen Brett. Rob May and Kyle Haas had previously stated they would be interested in the position. However, since neither member was present, this issue was tabled until the next meeting.

Committee membership update:

A motion was made: (Danielson) and seconded (McCarthy) to give Tricia White, Cindy Pendergast, Laura Buckley, and Mary Ellen DeFrias membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Update on co-hosted webinars:

From the last meeting, members said they would be interested in webinars on 1) how arts, culture, and tourism connect to economic development and 2) how to be successful writing federal grants. There will be two co-hosted webinars this year addressing these two topics. One will be in February (date currently held as February 21) and the other in April (date TBD). As of now, it has not been decided which topic will fall on which date, but updates and invitations will soon come out with greater detail.

Project updates for economic development data tools:

OCPC received an award for a data dashboard and an economic development self-assessment. The data collection and work for the dashboard has been ongoing since August. OCPC plans to create a mock-up for the website and give it to the CEDS Committee as well as other stakeholders in order to assess user experience and dataset choices. A framework of questions

for the economic development tool has been developed and is currently going under internal review before it will be sent out for review.

EDA regional water study update:

Don Sullivan explained that OCPC filed a grant for a \$940,000 project (\$470,000 from EDA, \$470,000 match) last week. This study would be conducted throughout all 17 of the OCPC communities. An answer should come by mid-February.

East Bridgewater sewer update:

Don Sullivan discussed East Bridgewater's grant from MassWorks which is planned to be used along with EDA funding and a local match. This is a \$9.6 million project. The goal is to have an application with the EDA by March and a response by April.

Plymouth Foundation update:

Stephen Cole spoke about the Plymouth Economic Development Foundation's work. About 300 kids participated in the 5th grade Children's Business Fair this past year and made, on average, \$200. The goal of this fair is to introduce young kids to the idea of small business ownership in their future career paths.

The foundation recently held the Blue Future Conference, finding that Plymouth is well positioned to improve its marketing as a foodie destination. Some vacancies have opened in the retail industry, but restaurants are opening and expanding. In order to support the restaurant business, food trucks, a shared kitchen, and a food science center will be beneficial. Researchers are moving forward with quantum, AI, robotics, and biomedical technologies to build information about the ocean and Plymouth's coast. The Plymouth Economic Development Foundation has updated its logo to emphasize the fact that Plymouth is shovel-ready for a green-blue economy.

Laura Buckley spoke about the benefits of development in Plymouth for the whole region. She discussed previous data on blue-green economies, noting similarities and differences between these developments in the South Shore and other regions.

Member updates:

Joe Mech discussed BAT's plan to transition from diesel-fueled buses to battery-electric powered buses. Towards the end of this year, they will be receiving five electric buses. Electrical engineers are currently working on supporting infrastructure to keep these buses running. Dottie Fulginiti congratulated BAT for the initiative of free bus fares for the months of November and December which resulted in increased usage of the bus system.

Tricia White provided an update on Building a Better Business for All, an online interactive program teaching the legal, marketing, and financial aspects of running a business. Dates are posted online nhsmass.org. Tricia White is also a TA for Mass Growth Capital Empower Digital Grant which is able to help small business owners to obtain funding of up to \$5000 for digital software. Easton Chamber is hosting a presentation about the requirements for the Empower Digital Grant on Wednesday, January 18 at 5:30PM. Debra Roberts asked if the Empowerment Grant funding is restricted by type of business, noting cannabis in particular. Since this funding does have a federal portion, there are restrictions.

Other business:

EPA Brownfields Assessment

Don Sullivan discussed a \$500,000 grant which OCPC applied for to address six Brownfields sites in Easton, East Bridgewater, Hanson, and Whitman. These sites are linked by commuter rail stations. Through services at each site, the goal is to bring these sites to a point that they can be cleaned up and eventually developed. A response is expected in the spring of 2023.

MBTA Communities

January 31 is the deadline for the MBTA community action plan. Reach out to OCPC to answer any questions.

Next Meeting

Potentially would like to have this meeting as an in-person or hybrid format. Moving forward, meetings could occur at different locations.

Public comment: none

Next meeting scheduled for April 18th at noon.

Video of this meeting:

<https://youtu.be/G49i3jG4NgA>

Motion to adjourn at 1:01pm: Don Sullivan

Second: Tricia White

Unanimous vote

Submitted by Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC

Accepted on 04/18/2023