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**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Committee  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Tuesday, September 13, 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	Joined after rollcall	
3	Jason Hunter	MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board	Lorraine Albert	
4	Christopher Cooney	Metro South Chamber of Commerce		x
5	Pamela McCarthy	Town of Stoughton	x	
6	Rob May	City of Brockton	Evan Sears	
7	Stephanie Danielson	Town of Easton	x	
8	Jay Pateakos	MassDevelopment		x
9	Jennifer (Burke) DeBoisbriand	Town of Bridgewater	x	
10	Valerie Massard	Town of Kingston	Joined after rollcall	
11	Lea Filson	See Plymouth	Joined after rollcall	
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:**

No others present

**OCPC Staff Present**

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

Co-chair John Murray opened the meeting at 12:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Dottie Fulginiti read the accessibility statement. Roll call was taken. Eleven voting members were present, six others, and three OCPC staff.

**Minutes**

**A motion was made:** (McCarthy) and seconded (Danielson) to accept the minutes from the meeting on June 14, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

**Committee membership update:**

Joanne Zygmunt 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.

Additional members would round out the sectors and geography. Potential interest has come from Tricia White of NeighborWorks Housing Solutions, Melissa Ferretti of the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Laura Buckley from MassHire South Shore, Mary Ellen DeFrias of GATRA and possibly someone else from NeighborWorks.

There was general discussion about whether the committee should expand to more members. Currently the terms of reference call for a cap of 19 members. There was consensus to allow the expansion. There was a question about how a quorum would work if there were more members. The bylaws currently state a quorum is a simple majority of the members. It would be acceptable to amend the bylaw to declare a quorum that is a minimum of six or eight members. Joanne will go back to the prospective members, reconfirm whether they want to join and will present language for changes of section 2 membership and quorum.

Mary Waldron commented on behalf of the Council that they want to be sure the membership is diverse and representative of the region.

**Call for interest for committee chair:** John Murray would like to step down to allow for someone else to fill that spot. Mary Ellen Brett is happy to continue if there is no interest but willing to step down if someone deeply desires the position. Members were invited to let Joanne know if they were interested in co-hosting.

**Update on co-hosted webinars:**

Dottie Fulginiti spoke a little about the Broadband webinar presented August 22 titled, Bridging the Digital divide. The Digital coalition led by Mass Broadband Institute is waiting to get confirmation of ARPA funding. This will allow them to offer technical assistance grants to communities to help them identify and solve their broadband and technology needs. The webinar had 85 people signed up, and 65 attended. We sent a follow up email with the link and the slides.

Joanne provided an update on potential future webinars. Future topics for the webinars were discussed. Some proposals are: regional collaboration on water and sewer, tips for attracting good developers to your community, good practices in applying for EDA federal funding, arts, culture and tourism driving local economic development, revitalizing local main streets in a post-covid world, clean energy/green jobs. Members are welcomed to suggest topics at any time. Time frame would be October and November. Committee members liked Arts, Culture and Economic Development Drivers and Grant writing for Federal Grants. There was consensus to move these two forward.

Joanne recommended following OCPC on social media and newsletter for more information about our work and grant opportunities.

#### **Economic Development Data Tools:**

Dottie Fulginiti spoke about the way OCPC is funded with federal, state and private grants. In August, OCPC was awarded a two-year EDA grant to develop a data dashboard and economic development assessment tool inspired by the Barry Bluestone work from the 2014 timeframe. Stephanie Danielson and Kyle Haas were interested in helping with this project.

**Biotech update:** Northeastern University applied for an EDA biotech grant as discussed in our last meeting. Unfortunately, they did not receive the grant, however, they remain committed to the work. More to come on this. OCPC plans to host a Biotech/Lifescience roundtable discussion in October.

**Grant update: Mass Cultural Council** has grant opportunities open right now. One is for organizations, and one is for individual artists. Each community has a cultural council and there are grant opportunities opening for those as well. Fulginiti described the grants and the deadlines.

**Brockton Redevelopment Authority:** A free Small Business Retreat will be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm at Brockton Community Access on Main Street. This event is sponsored by the MetroSouth Chamber.

Co-Chair Maryellen Brett asked how we could get this information out to our region. Joanne Zygmunt spoke about the ways information is shared by newsletter, social media, website, direct email and by seeking out individuals and communities that have expressed interest in a particular project.

#### **Member updates:**

Maryellen Brett – from Massasoit Community College. Massasoit has funding connected to the pandemic. They are looking to develop short term credentialed and certificate programs to help people that are un/under employed. Over the next year and a half they will offer no cost programs for those that are eligible. They have reached out to the folks at MassHire to cross promote. These programs will be for allied health, IT, office support/administration, customer service, lab tech and bio technician and seats in current programs such as medical assistant. They are looking for high demand jobs with living wages. Maryellen will keep us updated.

Debra Roberts from Stoughton– in October she is part of an event with the Brockton area NAACP and Admitech to focus on the disparities in healthcare, particularly males that have prostate cancer. Black males are more than twice as likely to die of that cancer. This encourages pre-screening. Debra was asking if this is information that could be shared. Joanne encouraged Debra to send that information to Megan Fournier [mfournier@ocpcrpa.org](mailto:mfournier@ocpcrpa.org) and she will share.

Pam McCarthy from Stoughton updated the group on the progress of the Discover Stoughton app. She also got Tricia White from NeighborWorks Housing Solutions to host a class with a dozen business owners to talk about the Mass Growth Capital digital empowerment grant. This would help businesses receive funding for websites. Pam has also worked with NeighborWorks to get up foreclosure assistance.

Joe Mech from Brockton Area Transit installed electric vehicle charging stations for public use. One is at their surface lot at 155 Court Street and the other is at the parking garage at 170 Center Street. They are in the process of developing a fleet zero emission transition plan and adding 5 electric busses by June, The intent is to transition to all zero emission vehicles. Bus hub expansion at the Westgate Mall to handle three buses simultaneously.

Stephanie Danielson from Easton shares the Easton Economic Development Council hosted a business forum that was very well attended. Margaret LaForest from the MA Office of Business Development spoke about the offerings available to small businesses. Small business owners shared their experiences of surviving through the pandemic. Key problems, attracting and retaining workers and affordable housing for workers.

Other business: none  
Public comment: none

Next meeting scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup> at noon.

Video of this meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iO93bMVMlyI>

Motion to adjourn at 12:57pm: Stephanie Danielson

Second: Lea Filson

Unanimous vote

Submitted by Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC

Accepted on 01/17/2023