

Old Colony Planning Council
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Committee Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting
September 15, 2020

Members Present

Maryellen Brett, Massasoit Community College, Assoc. Dean of Corporate, Co-Chair
John Murray, Career Works, Executive Director, Co-Chair
Rob May, City of Brockton, Director of Planning and Development
Mary Ellen DeFrias, MassDevelopment, VP of Community Development, SE
Jay Pateakos, MassDevelopment, VP of Business Development
Amy Troup, Halifax, Planning Board
Jennifer Burke, Bridgewater, Community and Economic Development Director
Becky Coletta, Pembroke, Chair, Planning Board
Jason Hunter, MassHire, Director of Operations
Stephanie Danielson, Easton, Dir., Planning and Economic Development
Connor Reid, Easton, Town Administrator
Greg Enos, Avon, Town Administrator
Mary Waldron, OCPC, Executive Director
Charles Kilmer, OCPC, Assist. Director/Transportation Program Manager
Laurie Muncy, OCPC, Principal Comprehensive Planner
Joanne Zygmunt, OCPC, Senior Comprehensive Planner
Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC, Economic Recovery Planner
Ray Guarino, OCPC, Principal Transportation Planner

This meeting was a Zoom meeting.

1. Welcome/Roll Call

Maryellen Brett, Co-Chair

1A. Title IV Statement

Maryellen Brett, Co-Chair

2. Minutes of the June 8, 2020 and July 21, 2020 meetings.

Motion to accept, Mary Ellen DeFrias, seconded by Jason Hunter. Voted accepted as written

3. Planning for Economic Resiliency: Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC Economic Recovery Planner: Ms. Fulginiti gave the committee a broad overview of OCPC Economic Recovery efforts. She started on July 1 as Economic Recovery Planner. For this meeting she sent out 107 invitations. Trying to build up attendance. Put together "What is the CEDS" document. Co-chairs will review, hope to distribute it at our next meeting. She is looking at Economic Resiliency- finding out what the

needs are in our region. Putting out information informing folks what OCPC is and what it does. Improving the OCPC database. Want to get economic development grant availability out faster. MAPC is conducting a Air Quality survey. OCPC is sharing it with our communities. The NERJ and Metro South Chamber are holding a webinar on Thursday, September 17. There will be a special edition of the NERJ where local communities in our region can promote themselves. OCPC wants to hear about what's going on with restaurants in our communities. Shared Streets grant: Seeking applicants. The Gov. has recently expanded funding for nursing homes. Council hopes to get COVID funding to put together a Shop Local/Buy Local plan for our region. OCPC has an Administrative Plan for our EDA Covid grant. Council is helping elected officials advocate for economic development programs.

Questions: Maryellen: Where can you get this info on the state level? Dottie answer: Some info is on the OCPC website. Local chambers of commerce are good sources of info. Mary Waldron: The OCPC website is under construction at the moment.

4. CEDS Survey Results: Dottie Fulginiti, OCPC Economic Recovery Planner: Ms. Fulginiti presented the results of the recent CEDS The key findings were: The preference was to have the meetings monthly, on Tuesdays at noon, add 20 minutes after meeting to chat, potential discussion topics: Update on COVID, Info on EDA grant applications and how to successfully file one, regional information on transportation topics, Economic development in downtowns, presentation by a town manager on a successful economic development project and want to create a 12 month calendar for CEDS meetings. The Chair asked attendees for discussion topics. Greg Enos, Avon: want to discuss getter pubic sewer to Stockwell Drive and the Avon Industrial Park. Becky Colletta, Pembroke: How do you support Main St/smaller businesses, how do you maintain smaller businesses in a town? Stephanie Danielson, Easton: Would like to see a presentation by an economist /market experts on where they see the direction of commercial development in the future. Amy Troup, Halifax: Concerned about what will happen when the moratorium on evictions ends in December. Raising taxes to fund grants hurts taxpayers. Need to allow restaurants to increase their indoor seating capacity when cold weather comes. Need to help small businesses.

5. Committee Member Updates

From MassHire:

Both the MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board and Career Center are currently providing all services remotely. The Workforce Board continues to secure grants allowing customers to receive training in areas such as Banking and Commercial Driving. The career center has upgraded their scheduling software and increased the number of workshops available to job seekers. Businesses can take advantage of virtual recruitments each week through our Hot Jobs Live sessions. Individual counseling and training for eligible job seekers is also available through the career center. Please visit our website: masshiregbcc.org for workshop registration, access to job leads and links to other State resources for businesses and job seekers

From Easton:

Easton is advancing major public works infrastructure projects to support existing and future businesses in the Five Corners - \$21 M of sewer – as well as anticipated \$10 M TIP job on Depot Street connecting Route 138 and Five Corners in FY 2021-22. The town has rolled out unified outdoor permitting under MA Governor Baker’s orders for restaurants and have been able to support businesses during Covid due to proactive investments in ePermits for the previous ten years. Easton has instituted a housing rental fund.

From Massasoit:

MCC is doing remote learning through June of next year except for programs like nursing that require some classes to meet in person. MCC obtained grants to fund an ophthalmologic assistant program. Working with the City of Brockton through the Urban Agenda Program students can obtain an IT assistance certificate. MCC will use a grant to fund a Medical Office Assistant program. They will partner with employers and MassHire on this program. MCC will partner with SCORE to provide education for folks who want help in starting a business. These classes will all be offered on line.

6. Other Business

There was none.

7. Next meetings; Tuesday October 20th @ noon
Tuesday, October 17 @ noon

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

[Bruce Hughes](#)

Old Colony Planning Council

Personal message from Bruce: Thanks Dottie for taking meeting notes in my absence from illness and recording the meeting.