

- Attendees:
 - Jodi Harris, Donna Roy, Westley Burnham, Margaret Eklind, Ryan Madrigal, Tina Lane, Martha Mazzarino, Georgeanne Richards, Desiree Comb, Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, Town Planner Dana Menon, Selectman Ruth Pereen, Strategic Plan Chair Annie Cameron, Julie Schofield
- Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm by Chairman Harris.
- Minutes from the 4/7/22 & 5/19/22 virtual meetings were approved with corrections
- Lighting Grant – Dana Menon
 - Dana announced a \$160,000 award from "Shared Streets and Spaces" grant program to fund design and installation of pedestrian streetlights along a section of Main Street from Woodman's to the bridge. The town has 1½ years to use the funds. She will be seeking feedback on light fixture options. Brendhan shared that a potential state earmark of \$50,000 can be used to cover ineligible costs such as final engineering, oversight & police detail during the installation.
 - The group "Light Up Essex" had expressed interest in contributing money to the lighting effort and it was recommended that we share the grant award news with Hunter Jay.
 - It was noted that solar lighting was researched and not recommended
 - Regarding funding, Jodi shared that short term rental tax income was \$30,000 and she would like to tie this money directly to the lighting project. Brendhan said that free cash will be determined in August and that the use of funds can be brought to Town Meeting in the fall.
 - It was suggested that Tina research vacation rentals offerings in Essex and add that information to the EDC database.
- New EDC member Desiree Comb was introduced and welcomed to the committee.
- Update on Town owned parcels – Ryan Madrigal, Brendhan Zubricki
 - Brendhan shared progress on effort to research owner unknown properties.
 - Abutters will be identified to help with the title research.
 - Assessors had started this research in the past and that data will be shared with the new researcher.
 - Discussion of which town own properties' sale would be acceptable to the voters at Town Meeting
 - Group 1 – those interested in purchase of the town own small lot would ask about the Lot 8 unknown owner status.
 - Group 2 – Town own Lots 14 & 15 include Laurel Lane (access road)
 - Ryan pointed out town owned lots by Gregory Island Road off Chebacco Lake. A discussion about the how they could be appealing to residential abutters. While too small to build a house, construction of a garage or outbuilding is possible. Residents can be contacted for their opinion. It was agreed that these lots would be the best to offer for sale pending Town Meeting approval.

- Centennial Grove update
 - Brendhan has scheduled soil testing with Erin, in the area of the cottage on July 19 (rain date July 20) at 10:00
 - Jodi asked Donna to share what a rental program at the grove would look like at the next EDC meeting in August and suggested an outline about charging fees would be a good place to start.
 - Pavilion will be available in 2023 at the earliest. Dan Mayer is sourcing lumber for the project
- Strategic Plan – Annie Cameron joined to review the new version of the plan with the EDC
 - Goal 1) Update and Finance Critical Infrastructure
 - Goal 1 B.d Tina asked to verify that the financing of affordable housing will not be the taxpayers' responsibility. The goal was reworded to: Finance, via CPA funds and the other grant and private dollars, additional affordable housing in Essex
 - Goal 3) Maintain and Further Develop a Strong Business Community
 - Annie asked about the term “placemaking”. Dana shared that it was the public process of gathering ideas to create spaces with community identity. Pocket parks and lighting are examples of placemaking.
 - Goal 3 F. Donna suggested adding wayfinding. There was a discussion about the DOT requirements for signage and strategies to achieve wayfinding without signage (aesthetics, QR code). Dana suggested “placemaking that considers wayfinding” be part of this action.
 - Tina suggested that safety and a sanitary environment for visitors and residents be included as an action item. It was questioned whether this was an issue in town. Ongoing maintenance of toilets and trash cans was discussed and subcontractor services for these tasks suggested as an option.
 - Goal 6) Promote Fiscally Responsible Government
 - Goal 6 F. Margaret suggested that the Fin Com be included along with the EDC. The EDC, Fin Com and the BOS will be listed as Project leaders.
- Review of the EDC Plan as prepared with MAPC 2019 will continue at the next meeting
- Update on ongoing projects. Members are invited to contribute effort in their areas of interest.
 - Margaret - Business Guide
 - Tina - Database
 - Ryan – Sale of Town Lots
- Next EDC meeting will be held virtually (if still an option per the Governor) on Thursday, 8/11/22 at 7:00.
- Meeting Adjourned 8:22

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Lane