

DRAFT MINUTES
BARNSTABLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
April 30, 2018

A meeting of the Barnstable County Economic Development Council was held on April 30, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. in the Cape Cod Commission's main conference room, 3225 Main Street, Barnstable, MA.

Members:

David Augustinho	Workforce Development Board	Absent
Lauren Barker	Young Professionals	Present
Alisa Galazzi	Affordable Housing	Present
Julie Wake	Arts and Culture	Present
Terri Ahern	Healthcare	Absent*
Lisa Guyon	Healthcare	Present
Rob Brennan	Housing Developer	Present
Sheryl Walsh	Banking Sector	Present
Diane Pratt	Construction	Present
Peter Karlson	Information Technology/Entrepreneurship	Present
Tammi Jacobsen	Higher Education	Present
Harold Mitchell	Cape Cod Commission Member/Appointed Official	Present
Ron Beaty	Barnstable County Commissioner/Elected Official	Absent
Su Moran (Chair)	Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates Member /Elected Official	Present

*Temporarily represented by Lisa Guyon, Cape Cod HealthCare.

Others Present:

Kristy Senatori	Cape Cod Commission
Heather Harper	Cape Cod Commission
Leslie Richardson	Cape Cod Commission
Stephanie Houghton	Cape Cod Commission
Jessica Wielgus	Cape Cod Commission
Janice O'Connell	Assembly of Delegates

Su Moran, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for volunteering their time to serve on the Council. Janice O'Connell, Assembly of Delegates clerk, swore in members and reminded them to fill out and return the Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest certifications.

Ms. Moran reviewed the councils mission- an advisory board to Barnstable County established to guide economic development policy in a manner that will improve the quality of life for all, foster a healthy economy offering a range of employment opportunities at livable wages for year-round residents, and protect the region's natural and built assets today and in the future.

Kristy Senatori, Executive Director of the Cape Cod Commission, provided an overview of the Cape in terms of population, housing, jobs and available land. She highlighted the fact that Cape Cod has 50% of the seasonal homes in Massachusetts with Truro having the highest percentage of seasonal homes, 71% of their housing stock

and Sandwich having the lowest number, 18%. The forecasted population growth for the region is 3.3%, a 5.5% increase in employment and a 3.4% increase in households is expected.

Ms. Senatori reviewed the Council's role as CEDS Strategy Committee and Economic Development District (EDD) governing board. In this role, the Council will guide the development of and approve the 5-year CEDS document and oversee its implementation. The Council will review and approve annual evaluations of CEDS implementation and adopt an action plan for each coming year. The Council will have input into the allocation of resources for CEDS implementation and will help guide the public participation and CEDS planning process.

Leslie Richardson, Chief Economic Development Officer, provided a brief overview of basic economic and market forces (supply, demand and externalities) and reviewed development limits the Cape as a region faces, both natural (developable land area, absorption capacity of the natural environment, climate changes, sea level rise and weather hazards) and man-made limits (zoning, other regulations and infrastructure- wastewater, telecommunications, energy and transportation).

Ms. Richardson reviewed CEDS accomplishments which include:

- Zoning for greater density in activity centers in Orleans, Yarmouth, Chatham, and Eastham
- Business expansions and investment
- Infrastructure improvements in broadband, wastewater, and transportation
- Information access from basic demographics on STATSCapeCod to primary research surveys and studies

Duane Fotheringham said regulations, while necessary, can be an impediment to business growth on the Cape and more reforms are needed for increased business development. Ms. Moran agreed that the permitting process could prove too cumbersome and expensive, causing businesses to choose to develop elsewhere. Ron Brennan said the Cape needs to show, as a region, it is willing to support new business growth and investment in education and training. Tammi Jacobsen said there is a need for professional and skill based development. The Cape Cod Community College serves an older than average student, who is looking to make career changes and professional certifications.

Lisa Guyon said access to housing is a significant challenge, workers need to be paid a living wage so that they can afford housing. Alisa Gallazi asked whether the numbers show that young people are leaving the Cape. Lauren Barker said data does show young people leaving the region with many returning later to raise a family or for the quality of life. She said she has heard of from more people who would like to return but jobs and housing remain a barrier.

Pater Karlson asked if the CEDS process would be the same as it was in 2009. Ms. Senatori said there might be similarities but that the Council will have a significant role in forming the planning approach as well as the CEDS content. Ms. Richardson said the handout, titled "The CEDS- A Planning Process and a Plan," outlines US Economic Development Administrations requirements for the CEDS and the planning process used in prior years.

Heather Harper, Affordable Housing Specialist, spoke about the importance of creating a region that is comprised of resilient communities, as well as a resilient economy and environment. Having economic, housing, and population diversity results in resilient communities. Housing on the Cape is dominated by single-family homes, making up 85% of the housing stock. Over a quarter of resident households (26,000) are 'cost burdened', spending more than 30% of income on housing. Many influence housing prices, including competition from seasonal buyers, have pushed housing prices beyond affordable rates for the region.

Ms. Harper touched on the elements of a resilient economy: business and employment diversity, living wages, rapid recovery planning (by the community and individual businesses) and a business development network. Also vital is a resilient natural and built infrastructure. She highlighted threats to resiliency, including the 2,300 acres of tree cover lost, the significant increase in impervious surfaces and the many acres developed land within flood areas. Ms. Harper stressed that resiliency would be an increasingly important lens to inform regional planning from the Regional Policy to the CEDS.

Ms. Guyon asked how the town economic development councils are involved in the CEDS process. Ms. Richardson said economic development corporations (EDICs) from the Upper Cape have typically participated in the planning process, along with town staff from across the Cape. She encouraged the members to think about any constituencies that should be included in the CEDS process and creative ways of engaging stakeholders over the next year.

The next meeting will be held in June. A poll will be sent to members to select a specific date. At the June meeting, the Council will review and approve the CEDS annual report for year 4, discuss the CEDS 5-year update and the upcoming OneCape Conference.

Members were reminded that they will receive information regarding open meeting law and ethics in an email following the meeting.

The meeting ended at 4:25.