



Barnstable County Economic Development Council (BCEDC)

Draft Minutes | January 11, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

Virtual via Zoom

The meeting was held virtually, with members of the Barnstable County Economic Development Council participating remotely, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16, 2021.

The Chair announced that because the meeting was being held virtually all votes and other actions would be done by roll call. She stated that the members participating remotely would be announced as roll call is taken.

Attendance and Roll Call

Member	Business Sector	Attendance
Rob Brennan	Construction/Engineering	Arrived at 5:11 pm
Chris Flanagan	Residential Construction	Absent
Kara Galvin	Workforce Development	Present
Lisa Guyon	Social Services	Present
Tammi Jacobsen	Higher Education	Present
Alisa Magnotta	Social Services	Present
Robert Talerman	Banking/Finance	Present
Julie Wake	Arts and Culture	Present

Non-voting members

Mark Forest	BC Commissioner	Present
Harold Mitchell	CCC Rep	Present
John Ohman	Assembly of Delegates	Present

Cape Cod Commission Staff:

Kristy Senatori	Executive Director
Erin Perry	Deputy Director
Chloe Schaefer	Chief Planner
Carolina Romero	Economist
Cory Murray	Community Dev. Planner
David Still	Digital Comm Specialist
Siobhan Cavacco	Administrative Assistant

Others Present:

Lori Meads, Chief Executive Officer of Seamen's Bank

Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:02pm with roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Bert Talerman, seconded by Tammi Jacobsen, the draft minutes from the November 16, 2022 BCEDC meeting were approved.

Roll Call Vote

Bert Talerman	Yes
Kara Galvin	Abstain
Lisa Guyon	Abstain
Tammi Jacobsen	Yes
Julie Wake	Yes
Alisa Magnotta	Yes

Nominating Committee:

Council members were informed there are three vacancies on the council and the nominating committee will be meeting at 6:00 pm tonight to discuss applicant resumes and possibly select one to three people to move forward to the Barnstable County Commissioners for appointment to the BCEDC.

Early Education and Childcare Needs and Actions: Lori Meads, President and Chief Executive Officer of Seamen’s Bank discussed childcare benefits provided to bank employees.

Ms. Senatori began the discussion by referencing the recently completed [Cape Cod and Islands Early Education and Childcare Needs Assessment](#). She said it is important for the council to discuss opportunities to advance the recommendations in the assessment and to structure them within the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Lori Meads discussed Seaman’s Bank Sea-Babies Program, a childcare benefit the bank has been offering employees for over twenty years. Ms. Meads said the program was developed to help with the challenges of hiring and retaining employees on the outer Cape. She said the bank partnered with Cape Cod Children’s Place in Eastham and subsidizes nine spots at the childcare center, from infant to preschool. Ms. Meads said the bank pays 65% of the childcare tuition and the employee pays the remaining 35% in weekly payroll deductions. She said employees pay about \$125 a week to have childcare from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, M-F, and there has been a waitlist for the program since it began. Ms. Meads said the bank budgets for the program annually because it is more cost effective to retain employees.

Ms. Magnotta asked if there were any questions or comments.

Ms. Guyon asked if there is a line item for the program and if it is used as a recruitment and retention tool. Ms. Meads said there is a specific line item for the program and it is a huge recruitment tool for the bank. She added employees are the most important asset to a business and the childcare benefit is just as important as any other business expenditure. Ms. Guyon asked if the program qualifies for

community development under the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA). Ms. Meads said the program is applauded when they go through a CRA examination with the FDIC. She added it isn't a difficult program to implement and during COVID they expanded the program to provide the subsidy to any MA licensed childcare facility.

Ms. Magnotta asked if the subsidy is taxable income or viewed as a donation. Ms. Meads said it is not a donation. She said it is an expense for the bank and for employees and there is a tax implication once they reach a certain threshold of tuition reimbursement.

Ms. Magnotta asked how employees are selected to receive the benefit. Ms. Meads said any employee with a child can participate in the program.

Ms. Magnotta suggested the program could be a possible CEDS recommendation. She mentioned HAC's THRIVE program, a rental subsidy program supported by employers for childcare workers.
<https://haconcapecod.org/thrive/>.

Mr. Talerman asked Ms. Meads if the program has experienced any challenges with finding enough childcare providers. Ms. Meads said at this point they have not experienced any such issues. Ms. Magnotta said she has heard there is a lack of available childcare slots due to a lack of providers.

Ms. Senatori asked if the percentage of employees who have taken advantage of the program over the years has been consistent. Ms. Meads said the percentage ebbs and flows and estimates 25-50% of employees have participated in the program. Ms. Senatori said she would like to review the business model for the CEDS update.

This concluded Ms. Mead's presentation.

Ms. Senatori said that Stacie Peugh, President and Chief Executive Officer of YMCA Cape Cod, was scheduled to discuss the challenges faced by early education and childcare providers, particularly as it relates to staffing. However, due to a scheduling conflict she was not able to attend.

Ms. Magnotta suggested having Ms. Peugh present at another meeting. She asked if speakers have been lined up for the water quality discussion and suggested inviting a speaker to discuss the recent Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hearings. Ms. Senatori said they should be able to incorporate Ms. Peugh's presentation into a future meeting.

Ms. Wake provided a link in the chat for the Cape Cod Groundwater Guardians' podcast "One Drop Leads to Another" and suggested inviting a speaker from the group.
<https://www.capecodgroundwater.org/topics/podcast/#:~:text=One%20Drop%20Leads%20to%20Another%20is%20a%20project%20about%20water,how%20they%20are%20all%20interrelated>

Cape Cod Commission Executive Director Update

Ms. Senatori provided an update on recent staff activities.

Ms. Senatori said the Commission is moving forward with the development of the Regional Housing Strategy. She said one of the first components in the stakeholder outreach process is to meet with all fifteen Cape towns. Ms. Senatori said they have met with eleven towns so far

and the remaining four are scheduled over the next two weeks. She said it has been helpful to get information from leadership in the towns and hear challenges they are facing as well as housing production goals, tools, and resources that have been successful in the past.

In addition to the Housing Strategy, Ms. Senatori said they are also moving forward with the Freshwater Initiative. She said staff will be meeting with all fifteen towns in February. Ms. Senatori said they are working with the Eastern Research Group on an economic analysis, beginning with a public perception survey.

Ms. Senatori provided information for upcoming MassDEP and MassDOT public meetings. She said MassDEP will be holding virtual public meetings regarding the amended Title 5 and proposed watershed regulations on January 24 and 25 at 6:00 pm as well as hybrid public information sessions on January 17 and 18. Ms. Senatori said MassDOT is holding virtual public meetings on January 24 and 26 for the proposed Cape Cod Bridges program.

Ms. Senatori said staff worked with a consultant to develop a Model Municipal Electric Vehicle (EV) bylaw for towns that are looking to incorporate EV charging infrastructure into their local bylaws.

Ms. Senatori said they are hosting the third cohort of student climate ambassadors starting at the end of January. She said applications are being accepted through tomorrow and encouraged members to share the information with any high school students they think might be interested.

Ms. Senatori concluded her update with information regarding a new state ethics platform to centralize the state ethics requirements. She said members should be receiving an email soon concerning the ethics training. She said members will have thirty days to complete the training once they receive the email.

Ms. Guyon asked for clarification on the recommendations in the childcare needs assessment and asked if they will become a part of the CEDS plan. She stressed the importance of the Common Start Coalition recommendation and asked if the BCEDC can support that type of advocacy. Ms. Senatori said the council can support the promotion of childcare opportunities, including legislation and individual organizations.

Ms. Guyon asked about local investment opportunities for childcare centers and homebased childcare businesses according to the needs assessment. She said WeCan has a program for female entrepreneurs and she is curious if they can create a General Relief Opportunities for Work (GROW) Program for home based childcare businesses. Ms. Perry said they will look at the survey results and follow-up directly with Ms. Guyon and the full council if they feel it will be helpful.

Ms. Romero added the MA Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is reviewing and analyzing information for large programs and licensed family run businesses. She said they are reviewing the

number of programs on the Cape and the number of available seats by town and programs that offer financial assistance.

This concluded the Executive Director Update.

Member Reports

Lisa Guyon provided an update for WeCan. Ms. Guyon said they are offering childcare reimbursement to women who want to participate in their programs and they are opening a new Hyannis office on Airport Road next week.

Bert Talerman provided an update for Cape Cod Five. Mr. Talerman said 2023 is looking to be a challenge for businesses with increased costs and labor issues. He said the Cape & Island MLS indicates sales are down 23% from 2021. Mr. Talerman said this a significant number and that everyone will probably have to deal with the economic headwinds.

Kara Galvin provided an update for MassHire. Ms. Galvin said there is a new Secretary of Labor & Workforce Development, Lauren Jones, who is an alum of the Patrick administration and a member of the Mass Workforce Association Board. Ms. Galvin said the Cape and Islands Workforce Board (CIWB) is hosting a delegation breakfast on February 10th at Upper Cape Cod Tech for board members and elected officials to provide information they can bring back to their constituents. She said Upper Cape Cod Tech just received another MassGuild grant for \$120,000 and MassHire received an extension for a Behavior Health grant application.

Julie Wake provided an update for Cape Cod Arts Foundation. Ms. Wake said Governor Maura Healy put together an arts and culture task force so she is optimistic that arts and culture will be a priority for the administration. She said the National Endowment for the Arts has an upcoming grant and she will be working with Commissioner Forest to get designation as the official arts agency of Barnstable County. She said they are currently reviewing grants from individual artists and different organizations for a total disbursement amount of \$120,000. Ms. Wake added that seven years ago they only gave out \$15,000 in grants. She said they are starting strategic planning to think about what the Cape Cod Arts Foundation does and how it can best support local artists and local culture.

Tammi Jacobsen provided an update for Cape Cod Community College (CCCC). Ms. Jacobsen said they are in a grant process right now and received a large number of applications for the Education and Training programs grant. She said it is a two-year grant and the plan was to enroll 8 to 10 in each cohort but that has doubled to 16 to 20 per cohort. Ms. Jacobsen said the MA Association of Community Colleges has additional funds the college can apply for to continue the programs in the fall. She said the two most popular programs are the 911 Communicator and Direct Care/Behavioral Health. Ms. Jacobsen said they are also doing a culinary & hospitality program at CCCC with an additional cohort in Plymouth.

Rob Brennan provided an update for CapeBuilt. First, Mr. Brennan applauded Ms. Magnotta on her work with the Governor's transition committee on housing. He then provided an update for the proposed Housing and Climate Innovation Center. Mr. Brennan said the goal for the center is to drive innovation for housing and climate policy, products, and models, and to attract companies and innovators to Cape Cod. He said the hope is to move housing and climate policy forward together rather than one moving forward at the expense of the other.

John Ohman, BC Assembly Delegate Member, commented on Ms. Mead's presentation and the importance of worker retention and keeping young people on the Cape. He suggested inviting Brian Baumgartel from the Barnstable County Department of Health and Environment to the wastewater discussion at next month's council meeting.

BC Commissioner Mark Forest announced he is the new Chair for the County Commissioners. He confirmed he will be meeting with Ms. Wake and that he supports efforts to bring the arts to Cape Cod. Commissioner Forest commended the council for the focus on childcare and employee retention. He said these issues are critical to the region and he supports finding additional resources for both. Commissioner Forest said the Cape should be a well-defined path on the climate corridor and they hope to expand the Alternative Septic System Test Center so they can host universities and businesses to help foster innovation and technology. Lastly, Commissioner Forest said there is a lot of interest in the Cape Cod bridges from elected officials and the bridges are at the top of the priority list. He suggested council members encourage the public to take advantage of the two upcoming MassDOT meetings. Commissioner Forest said they are applying for additional funding opportunities for the bridges in April and this summer and he will be happy to provide updates to the council.

Alisa Magnotta provided an update for the Housing Assistance Corporation (HAC). Ms. Magnotta said they are conducting town huddles as well as a regional committee meeting on the January 24 and 26 to discuss housing and to get everyone on the same page to continue the momentum and develop solutions.

New Business

Lisa Guyon said the council should be tracking ARPA funding. Commissioner Forest said the county has an ARPA coordinator and suggested the council include her in a meeting to provide an update.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Rob Brennan, seconded by Bert Talerman, the meeting adjourned at 6:12 pm with a roll call vote.



Roll Call Vote

Bert Talerman	Yes
Rob Brennan	Yes
Kara Galvin	Yes
Lisa Guyon	Yes
Tammi Jacobsen	Yes
Julie Wake	Yes
Alisa Magnotta	Yes

List of Materials Used/Presented

- No materials were used or presented.
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