

Barnstable County Economic Development Council (BCEDC)

Draft Minutes | March 27, 2024 at 4:30 pm

Meeting Room Location

Online via Zoom at capecodcommission.org/bcedc/join

The meeting was held virtually with members of the Barnstable County Economic Development Council (BCEDC) participating remotely, pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, as further amended by Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023.

The Chair announced that because the meeting was being held virtually, all votes and other actions would be done by roll call.

Attendance/Roll Call

<u>Member</u>	<u>Business Sector</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Greg Bilezikian	Real Estate Development	Present
Rob Brennan	Construction/Engineering	Present
Amanda Converse	Retail Commerce	Present
Kara Galvin	Workforce Development	Absent
Cindy Horgan	Childcare	Present (arrived at 4:34)
Tammi Jacobsen	Higher Education	Present
Alisa Magnotta	Social Services	Present (arrived 4:57)
Jack Stevenson	Construction	Present
Robert Talerman	Banking/Finance	Present
Julie Wake	Arts and Culture	Present (arrived at 4:33)
Vacant		
Non-voting Members		
Mark Forest	BC Commissioner	Present (arrived at 4:52)
Harold Mitchell	CCC Rep	Present
John Ohman	Assembly of Delegates	Absent
Cape Cod Commission Staff Present		
Kristy Senatori	Executive Director	
Erin Perry	Deputy Director	
Chloe Schaefer	Chief Planner	
Cory Murray	Community Development Planner	
David Still	Digital Comm. Specialist	
Louis Morbidoni	Administrative Assistant	

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm with roll call.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion by Harold Mitchell, seconded Greg Bilezikian, the draft minutes from the 2/17/24 BCEDC meeting were approved with a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

Greg Bilezikian	Yes
Rob Brennan	Abstain
Amanda Converse	Yes
Cindy Horgan	Yes
Tammi Jacobsen	Yes
Robert Talerman	Yes
Jack Stevenson	Yes
Julie Wake	Yes

Cape Cod Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs) Update: Chloe Schaefer, Chief Planner, reviewed the events of the Economic Summit, which took place March 5th. Ms. Schaefer explained that the Summit served as a platform for diverse speakers, both local and national, to share insights and strategies for economic development. Participants engaged in breakout sessions aimed at refining the region's economic vision, goals, and action plan.

Following the Summit, revisions were made to the vision and goals based on feedback received. Revisions better highlight the aspiration of fostering a resilient, inclusive, and diverse community, and leveraging the region's unique attributes.

Ms. Schaefer reviewed ten draft key actions and opened discussion for Member feedback:

- Incentivizing Year-Round Housing: Encouraging year-round housing options, potentially through a year-round occupancy deed restriction program and zoning changes.
- Simplifying Appropriate Housing Development: Efforts toward streamlining housing development processes, including zoning amendments and permitting strategies.
- Providing Spaces for Entrepreneurship: Initiatives aimed at facilitating pilot projects and pop-up locations to support local businesses and entrepreneurs.
- Supporting Year-round Community Activities and Engagement: Strategies focus on promoting year-round events and enhancing civic engagement opportunities.
- Connecting Students and Workforce: Align educational and training opportunities with workforce needs, ensuring students are aware of available resources.
- Identifying Growing Industries: Identifying and supporting emerging industries that capitalize on the region's strengths and attract new sectors.
- Invest in Water Quality and Wastewater Infrastructure: Seek funding for projects and enhance data collection efforts.
- Investing in Broadband Infrastructure: Prioritizing broadband infrastructure improvements to enhance connectivity and resilience and support remote work and education.
- Advocating for Bridge Replacements: Advocacy efforts to help secure replacements for the critical canal bridges, emphasizing the economic importance of these structures.

- Advancing Climate Change Resilience: Focused on implementing nature-based solutions and securing funding for climate resilience projects.

Julie Wake noted she would like to see arts and culture directly represented in the action plan, emphasizing their significance to the Cape's identity. Ms. Perry, Deputy Director, and Ms. Senatori, Executive Director, assured Ms. Wake that such elements would be woven into the action items, particularly under spaces for organizations to pilot ideas and supporting year-round community activities. Ms. Wake also sought clarification on the inclusion of both civic engagement and support for year-round community activity. Ms. Schaefer explained that the combined focus aimed to foster robust year-round community engagement, encompassing both participation in events and involvement in civic affairs. Ms. Perry emphasized the opportunity for community events to serve as gateways to civic engagement, facilitating meaningful connections between organizations and residents. Ms. Converse echoed this sentiment.

Cindy Horgan expressed the need to address early education and care, emphasizing its role in enabling workforce participation, especially for young families. Ms. Senatori commented that educational opportunities was woven into the revised vision statement as an initial step in addressing this feedback.

Rob Brennan commended the organization on the Economic Summit and expressed satisfaction with the outcomes, commenting that the discussions in the breakout sessions were productive.

Greg Bilezikian emphasized the importance of the process and action items to ensuring these goals are achieved and the plan's objectives are met.

Tammi Jacobsen expressed gratitude for the inclusion of education in the vision statement and commended staff on the execution of the Economic Summit.

Jack Stevenson was pleased with the comprehensive approach to capturing key initiatives.

Ms. Schaefer, Ms. Perry, and Ms. Senatori confirmed that the feedback received was valuable and would be used to refine the action items. Ms. Schaefer then outlined the next steps in the 2024 CEDS process, which include further refinement of key actions based on feedback from members and upcoming focus groups. The goal is to present a draft plan to the group in May for further review before proceeding to the public comment phase and submission to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) in June.

BCEDC Members expressed appreciation for the collaborative process and the comprehensive approach to economic development planning. Further refinements will be made to the action items based on feedback received, with ongoing efforts to ensure a well-rounded strategy that addresses the diverse needs of the community.

Notice of Vacancy: Ms. Perry notified members of a vacancy on the Barnstable County Economic Development Council due to the resignation of Lisa Guyon.

Alisa Magnotta moved to post the vacancy on the BCEDC webpage and solicit nominations, which was seconded by Greg Bilezikian. The motion was approved by roll call vote.

- Greg Bilezikian: Yes
- Rob Brennan: Yes
- Amanda Converse: Yes
- Cindy Horgan: Yes
- Tammi Jacobson: Yes
- Alisa Magnotta: Yes
- Bert Talerman: Yes
- Jack Stevenson: Yes
- Julie Wake: Yes

Nominating Process: Ms. Perry provided an explanation of the proposed amendments to the nominating process for the Barnstable County Economic Development Council. She noted the proposed amendments streamline the process of filling vacancies on the council and that the revised process would require approval from the Barnstable County Commissioners. The proposed changes focused on simplifying procedures, particularly regarding the immediate posting of vacancies as they occur and eliminating the need for a formal vote during meetings relative to those postings. Ms. Perry highlighted specific revisions made to sections describing the purpose and composition of the nominating committee, aiming to make the process more efficient.

Members then engaged in a discussion regarding the proposed amendments. Members echoed their support for the goal of enhancing efficiency while ensuring diversity within the BCEDC. There was consensus on the importance of maintaining well-rounded representation on the council, with consideration given to diverse backgrounds and sectors. Members noted that the nominating committee should carefully review applications to ensure a broad range of perspectives.

Alisa Magnotta moved to forward the amended nominating process to the Barnstable County Commissioners for their approval, which was seconded by Tammi Jacobsen. The motion was approved by a roll call vote:

- Greg Bilezikian: Yes
- Rob Brennan: Yes
- Amanda Converse: Yes
- Cindy Horgan: Yes
- Tammi Jacobsen: Yes
- Alisa Magnotta: Yes
- Bert Talerman: Yes
- Jack Stevenson: Yes
- Julie Wake: Yes

Nominating Committee: Mr. Talerman opened discussion on appointing two additional members to serve, along with the Chair, on the Council's nominating committee. Mr. Talerman opened the floor for volunteers or nominations to serve on the committee. Greg Bilezikian and Alisa Magnotta expressed their willingness to volunteer. Tammi Jacobsen also volunteered and agreed to serve as an alternate should the need arise.

Rob Brennan moved to appoint Mr. Bilezikian and Ms. Magnotta to the nominating committee, which was seconded by Jack Stevenson. The motion was approved by a roll call vote:

- Greg Bilezikian: Yes
- Rob Brennan: Yes
- Amanda Converse: Yes
- Cindy Horgan: Yes
- Tammi Jacobson: Yes
- Alisa Magnotta: Yes
- Bert Talerman: Yes
- Jack Stevenson: Yes
- Julie Wake: Yes

Cape Cod Commission Executive Director Update: Ms. Senatori provided updates on various initiatives. She introduced Louis Morbidoni, a new administrative assistant at the Commission, who will provide support to the EDC. Ms. Senatori said staff are reviewing and incorporating public comments into the housing strategy and have recently finalized a suite of model bylaws, now available on the Commission's website. She also highlighted progress on the Freshwater Initiative, with stakeholder meetings underway and the economic analysis. She provided an update on broadband and digital equity work, including workshops and upcoming engagements with Orleans, Sandwich, and Bourne, along with a broadband needs assessment.

Member Reports:

Mr. Brennan shared news about the Housing and Climate Innovation Center's Summer All Stars program, modeled after the Cape Cod Baseball League. Nine college students will participate in research on housing and climate challenges, paired with towns to develop solutions. Mr. Brennan expressed interest in finding additional host families and sponsors for the program, emphasizing its potential impact on the Cape's future. Mr. Bilezikian noted that the Cape Cod Chamber was looking for hosts through the J-1 visa program.

Ms. Converse announced Love Live Local's upcoming technical assistance workshop series for local makers and brands, funded by the Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod. She also noted local business owners' concerns about hiring and housing for the upcoming season.

Ms. Horgan reported on progress in early education and care, including the Senate's unanimous passing of the Common Start Coalition initiative which will now head to the House. Ms. Horgan also added that the Cape Cod Community College is establishing programs to support professionalism in early education.

Ms. Jacobson provided an update on the college's five-year strategic plan, mentioning development of the employer committee, which she may ask for feedback from the committee on. The employer committee is integral to aligning the plan with local workforce needs.

Ms. Magnotta announced that they were finalizing permitting for 40 new homeownership units and a family shelter in Dennis. Ms. Magnotta also expressed concern about the significant increase in the homeless outreach caseload over the past two years, reflecting the ongoing challenges in addressing housing insecurity on the Cape.

Mr. Stevenson reported that business activity remained steady regardless of interest rates, with no major developments to report at this time.

Ms. Wake discussed the Arts Foundation's ongoing grant review process for cultural organizations, with an impressive 90+ applications received. She mentioned that they were impressed with the quality of proposals and anticipated announcing the grant recipients in the coming weeks. Additionally, Ms. Wake introduced a new program funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, which aims to support individual artists in the community through capacity-building grants. Ms. Wake also took a moment to thank Mr. Forest and the Commission for designating her organization as the region's arts agency, helping them secure federal funding.

Mr. Forest expressed gratitude for the council's efforts in advancing the economic development strategy, acknowledging the document's significance in securing funding opportunities. He commended the collaborative work of the council and offered his continued support.

Mr. Talerman reflected on national issues impacting the region, emphasizing concerns surrounding bridge safety. He highlighted the importance of proactive measures to address infrastructure challenges and ensure the safety of residents and visitors on Cape Cod.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Adjourn

Upon a motion by Alisa Magnotta, seconded by Greg Bilezikian, the meeting adjourned at 5:56pm with a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote

- Greg Bilezikian: Yes
- Rob Brennan: Yes
- Amanda Converse: Yes
- Cindy Horgan: Yes
- Tammi Jacobson: Yes
- Alisa Magnotta: Yes
- Bert Talerman: Yes
- Jack Stevenson: Yes
- Julie Wake: Yes

List of Materials Used/Presented

Draft minutes from 2/14/24 meeting