

MEMORANDUM

TO: EDIC Board
FROM: Mike DiGiano, Executive Director
Lynne Broderick, Administrator
RE: March 2021 Director's Report

Date 3/07/2021

1. Finance

Financial reports and warrant for February previously distributed for review and approval at the February meeting.

Budget variance report will be sent under separate cover.

2. Town of Falmouth \$160,000 Micro-enterprise Grant Assistance Program

- After multiple set-up sessions with software provider, EDIC staff was able to complete Grant Application Portal set-up on Thursday Feb. 25 and began accepting applications March 1. Applications will be reviewed and funded on a rolling, first come, first served basis.
- As of this date we have 2 completed applications ready for review and another 13 in progress. Staff will be reaching out via email to in-progress applicants to see if applicants have questions or need assistance.
- Town has reported that the grant amendment to allow for reimbursement of software expense of \$7800 has been approved by EOHCD
- We have set up a grant application review committee consisting of Michael Kasparian of the Chamber, Mark Lowenstein of SCORE and EDIC Board member Michael Galasso who will review staff recommendations of completed grant applications for funding. SCORE representatives will also meet with grant recipients to provide mentoring on effective use of grant funds and other aspects of grant recipient's business operations.
- Outreach to date has been 2 large ads in the Falmouth Enterprise, promo on FCTV, Falmouth Chamber newsletter announcements and dedicated direct eblast to Chamber members, EDIC direct email blast of flyer to over 150 Falmouth businesses. Outreach will continue with a ZOOM based public meeting that will be advertised in Enterprise, emails to local accounting firms and banks, and other channels.

3. EDIC/ Mass Development Falmouth Station master plan project

Staff has had follow-up conference calls with Mass Development on work scope as well as continued efforts to establish meeting to review project with MassDOT representatives.

Once plan elements are confirmed by MassDOT, MassDevelopment can finalize study scope. Planning study estimated to take at least 4-5 months from notice to proceed.

In related item, EDIC staff, along with Board members Michael Galasso and Tom Feronti met with the Planning Board on Feb. 23 to discuss overall EDIC mission and ways the EDIC could partner with Planning Board. The Falmouth Station Master Plan study was introduced and briefly discussed with the Planning Board with planned follow-up with Planning once consultants are on board.

A similar meeting was held on March 3 with Bikeways committee, EDIC staff and Board member Chris Simmler. Many specific questions and concepts relating to the upcoming Falmouth Station study came out of that initial meeting. Planned follow-up with this committee once consultants are on board.

4. EDIC/MERCo grant application to Seaport Council to establish the Massachusetts Ocean Sensor Testbed (MOST) at MERCo's Bourne Tidal Test Stand (BTTS).

Chair Chris Land along with MERCo Director John Miller presented the BTTS project to a meeting of the Seaport Council on February 24. Subsequent to the presentation, the Council voted to approve the grant to EDIC /MERCo. EDIC staff along with MERCo followin-up with Council Staff to get Notice to proceed to begin work, starting with survey of the rail ROW so that plan for pole replacement for Open Cape connection to BTT can take place.

One important clarification: Open Cape currently already has 576 strands of fiber going across the RR railway bridge as 2 - 288 strand cables, one on each side of the bridge. This is in addition to their 288 strands going across the Sagamore. They are the only broadband provider serving the Cape that has this dual feed over the Canal.

5. Phase II Solar

Emily Byrne, Citizens Energy, reported on March 1 that survey crews were on site at Phase 2 and construction was underway. Dates below will be confirmed by March meeting time:

- Debt financing – Closed on 12/30. Sublease [amendment is complete and recorded.](#)
- DEP construction approval expected week of 2/ 8
- Secure system equipment and assets by 11/16 2020. Completed
- Installation: [On 2/8 teams install barriers around the vents. Survey 3/1.](#)
- Construction start: [Estimated time to complete construction:](#)

- Closeout Date (rent commencement) of 8/6/21

6. Joe 4 Sun Program to deliver energy savings from our Phase II project to 250 Falmouth low income households:

Citizens reported to EDIC and other Falmouth social service agency partners that they have begun implementing their local media strategy through FCTV and local media outlets end of February. Included is quote from EDIC Board member Patti Haney. They are using [the Falmouth-specific video](#) on FCTV via connection made by Lynne Broderick.

7. EDIC Open Cape Main Street Project:

Update to this program since last month's report (36 connections /34 businesses) will be available at meeting time.

8. Community Fiber Optic Network Feasibility Study:

As discussed at the last EDIC meeting, next steps would be to meet with the Select Board to assess Town's potential role and interest in pursuing a project. Recent communication from Select Board Chair indicated a meeting as soon as an appropriate date opens up. Staff working with Sam Patterson on the meeting date.

EDIC staff along with Board member Sam Patterson and Falmouth Net members participated in outreach with various ISPs to discuss the EDIC Fiber feasibility study and determine level of interest in the Falmouth market.

9. 64 Tech Park Drive

Update to this January report below will be given at the meeting:

Michael McGrath currently preparing plan to present to Water Department, Town Engineer, Town Planner and Planning Board showing calculations and reduction of drainage easement that would allow for more potential development area on the lot. If approved, we can confirm buildable area footprint and then proceed to next step with appraisal. Additional update at meeting.

10. Falmouth Station Operations

Station Grill notified EDIC staff that they will be resuming full schedule on March 1.

11. Funding of EV charging stations available through Mass DEP EVIP Public Access Charging Station Grant

EDIC Staff received email confirmation from MassDOT 2/11 that it was ok to proceed with EV Charging station applications and we completed the Mass DEP application on February 18. We also continue to follow-up with Rise Engineering on the Eversource EVP charging station program and have met on-site with them to discuss preliminary design and placement issues. Awaiting response from them on issues of below ground electrical connection.