

Chester Economic Development Commission
Draft Minutes- 4/5/22 Workshop

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:11 by Chairman Jon Joslow

2. Role Call

Commission members Pat Bendzes, Susan Wright, and Jon Joslow. Attended by First Selectwoman Charlene Janencek.

3. ARPA Update

Susan reported that the Social Services Subcommittee recently met and accepted proposals from Chester's Social Services department and Tri-Town Youth Services. These are to be considered by the ARPA Committee at 7PM on 4/12/22.

Subcommittee for the ARPA application process and decision making matrix to formalize the process of taking an ARPA expenditure proposal and getting it approved through the ARPA Committees, BOF, BOS and to Town Meeting.

Included in the recommendations is an allocation for a percentage of ARPA dollars into various buckets, of which EDC is one. We discussed the opportunity to fund projects that have already been approved by the town and documented in the POCD. We proceeded to look at the 100+ initiatives that were included but not necessarily prioritized or assigned. This has not been updated for COVID and other events after the plan was approved at Town meeting in 2020. For that reason, the events transpiring post 2019, when the plan was completed, need to be overlaid onto this review project so that all known projects and issues are under consideration.

4. Consideration for funding EDC-related and POCD initiatives

The POCD documented 6 primary goals, 21 Objectives and a number of specific initiatives:

Goal 1: Strengthen Chester's economy through creative economic development.

Goal 2: Increase pedestrian, bicycle and transit connectivity in the town and the region to enhance quality of life, enable active lifestyles and promote natural resource appreciation. economic development.

Goal 3: Diversify Chester's housing stock while protecting existing neighborhoods and community character.

Goal 4: Preserve the rural character and natural features that make Chester unique.

Goal 5: Provide high quality recreational services and facilities to support quality of life.

Goal 6: Support and promote sustainability and resiliency.

The first 3 goals (and their associated initiatives) were reviewed for current status and for the parties responsible for assisting and directing their potential execution. It was noted that many of the initiatives relate to affordable housing and others require action by P&Z. Once all goals and initiatives have undergone review by EDC, the BOS may want to get it updated by other commissions and boards so that all projects and their associated responsible parties can be understood and communicated so everyone knows who is working on what initiatives. It will be used by EDC to guide their approach to recommending specific projects and initiatives for consideration by the ARPA committee. The next step is to continue the review at the EDC 4/11/22 meeting.

5. Audience of Citizens

None

6. Adjournment:

Motion to Approve: Jon

Second: Susan

Vote: Passed (3Yea, 0 Nay)