

HDIC Minutes – February 26, 2026

Members Present: David Bailey, Joe Cusker, Mike Galvin, Katie McHardy, Kate Schmidt

Members not Present: Jeff Bellows, Chris Goode

Staff – Art Robert

Presenter: N/A

Call to order: 8:32 AM

Co-Chair Galvin called the meeting to order.

Mr. Robert read the “Remote Meeting” statement governing remote meetings under state law. No participant noted they were recording the meeting.

Approval of Minutes – January 29, 2026

Vote: Mike Galvin Moved, David Bailey seconded the motion. Vote 5 yea, 0 nay

Approval of Annual Report (attached)

Vote: Mike Galvin Moved, David Bailey seconded the motion. Vote 5 yea, 0 nay

Discussion – Economic Development Strategic Plan - Updates

The group discussed development of a sites and buildings inventory. David shared options based on his research. Katie McHardy used AI to put selected sites into a spreadsheet format, reduced the number of options, and selected fields based on ReadyMass 100 criteria. Art described grant funding available for development of a sites and buildings inventory. Art agreed to review Katie’s spreadsheet and look for ways to create the inventory. Mike asked that the information be posted to the HDIC web site.

South Shore Chamber Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO) Grant

Art described how the (SSC) was recently designated by the state as a REDO. Art explained how this designation ensures that South Shore economic development issues are “plugged in” to the state’s economic development efforts. The designation also carries grant funding for projects in the region. The SSC’s REDO grant devotes funding to Hingham, for the purposes of developing a Sites and Buildings inventory, as discussed earlier. There was some discussion of using the funds to access commercial data sources, such as CoStar. Art committed to researching and developing options.

Rev250

Art summarized efforts to develop local programming, explaining 5/15 and 5/16 as a “Revolutionary Weekend”. This weekend will feature Events inspired by the Hingham Historical Society (5/15), as well as the Town-led Battle of Grape Island commemoration (5/16). There was also some discussion of 6/20 and 6/27 as FIFA World Cup weekends, immediately following matches scheduled the previous day in Foxborough. Some discussion of how to attract people visiting those games to Hingham ensued. There was some discussion of how to encourage Hingham Square businesses to open on Sundays. There was also some discussion of accommodating families with children and busy sports schedules. Art committed to following

up with Discover Hingham to identify opportunities to market Hingham Square to those visitors, many of which are from overseas.

Economic Development Updates

Art provided updates on the following:

- Snow removal
- Station Street Parking Lot Lighting
- Town meeting warrant articles offering the Town the option to sell properties with commercial development potential:
 - 8 Short Street – Former Tree & Park Barn
 - 230 North Street – Former North Fire Station

Adjourn – 9:29 AM

Vote: Mike Galvin Moved, David Bailey seconded the motion. Vote 5 yea, 0 nay.

Documents:

Annual Report

HDIC & Economic Development Strategic Plan