

TOWN COUNCIL

WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

September 29, 2016

MEMO Volume 24, No. 39

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, October 4th, Town Council Personnel and Appointments Committee, 6:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Tuesday, October 4th, Town Council, 7:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex, CR1
- Wednesday, October 5th, Town and City Councils/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee, 5:30 p.m., Administration Office, Room 11

GROTON FALL FESTIVAL

The 2016 Groton Fall Festival will take place on Saturday, October 8th from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Poquonnock Plains Park on Route 1. Over 100 businesses, services, and organizations will be sharing their products and information with the Groton community at this 11th annual event enjoyed by thousands every year. Great food, entertainment, a touch-a-truck area, and an appearance by the Life Star helicopter are some of the highlights of the day. Admission is free to the public. Convenient parking will be located at Grasso Technical High School where a shuttle bus will provide transportation to Poquonnock Plains Park.

TREE CITY USA

The Town of Groton is one of the 3,462 municipalities, counties and military bases in the United States and one of the 17 out of 169 municipalities in the State of Connecticut that has been honored as a Tree City, a designation that recognizes a community's commitment to maintaining public trees not only in parks, but along the roads and around the public buildings.

Municipal trees not only provide the community with a green look and feel; they also reduce noise, air and visual pollution. Trees slow the rainfall decreasing soil erosion, and cool homes, businesses and recreational areas.

The Tree City USA program has been in existence for 40 years with the Town awarded the Tree City USA designation for 20 years. The Public Works Department is responsible for managing the program consisting not only of the

removal of dead and diseased trees, but also the pruning and planting of new stock.

The Department will be submitting their application for the 2016 recognition.

AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Airport Development Zone (ADZ) application was sent to and received by the State of Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD). This application addresses properties within a two-mile radius of the airport and the zone would offer significant benefits to new and expanding companies that focus on manufacturing, research and development, and other targeted sectors. DECD is expected to review the provided cost/benefit analysis provided by Groton and conduct their own regional economic calculation to determine if this benefits the state. Economic Development staff has been in communication with the state for months on this effort including a recent site tour of the Town and Groton New London Airport. Economic Development staff anticipates approval of the Airport Development Zone by the end of 2016.

ATTACHMENTS

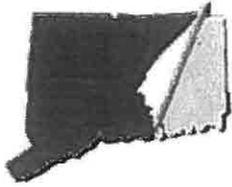
1. Attachment 1 is a flyer from the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce for the Building Business with Tax Increment Financing: Panel Discussion to be held October 12th from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 224 Goldstar Highway. The fee is \$15.00 per person with continental breakfast included. Please register at <http://info.chamberct.com/events/register/9287>.
2. Attachment 2 is a flyer from Cure Innovation Commons for the Thirsty Thursdays event being held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 4:30 p.m. at 93 Shennecossett Road. Please visit www.curecommons.org for more information.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

1. Office of Planning and Development (August):
 - Staff met with leaders at the General Dynamic Electric Boat facility to discuss the future plans for dramatically increasing the production of attack submarines in the coming years.
 - The department began the process of choosing a consultant to "lean" the department's approval process.

- Staff coordinated a meeting for the construction of the new Grasso Technical High School which included a discussion regarding the use of the Grasso driveway as an access to the proposed new middle school on the Merritt property.
- Approximately 450 residents and businesses responded to the Great Blue Research Survey gauging consumer and business sentiments.
- Staff has marketed 517/529 Gold Star Highway in search of quality development proposals that will maximize financial benefit while respecting the site's location within the public drinking water supply watershed.

MRO/lh



Building Business with Tax Increment Financing: Panel Discussion

Name: Building Business with Tax Increment Financing: Panel Discussion

Date: October 12, 2016

Time: 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM EDT

[Register Now \(http://info.chamberect.com/events/register/9287\)](http://info.chamberect.com/events/register/9287)

Event Description:

Recent Connecticut legislation has streamlined Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to become a powerful economic development tool for our region's businesses and municipalities. How can local TIF districts benefit your business or development project?

Featured Speakers:

Mario DiLoreto, READCO Holdings

Michael Andreana, Esq., Pullman & Comley LLC

What is a Tax Increment Financing District?

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a tool used by states and municipalities to stimulate development and redevelopment. Essentially, a TIF allocates future projected property tax revenues from a project/area - that are above and beyond what would have been generated without the project - to costs associated with the project. In other words, the property tax benefits from the project are used to help finance the project.

To Current Calendar (<http://info.chamberect.com>)

Location:

Hilton Garden Inn
224 Gold Star Highway
Groton CT 06340

View a Map (<http://maps.google.com/maps?ht=en&q=224+Gold+Star+Highway,+Groton,+CT>)

Fees/Admission:

\$15 per person

\$5 Walk-In Fee

Includes presentation and continental breakfast

Cancellation Policy: Notice must be given at least three business days prior to the event. No shows or those unable to cancel in time will be billed. To cancel, please call the Chamber at (860) 701-9113.

Set a Reminder:

Enter your email address below to receive a reminder message.

Enter Email Address

-- Select Days Before Event --

Go

To Current Calendar (<http://info.chamberect.com>)

Host Ribbon Cutting (/host-a-ribbon-cutting/)

We thank our Regional Benefactors:

ConnectiCare (<http://connecticare.com>)



(<http://cmeec.com>)





The 3rd Thursday of the month at 4:30pm.
Stop by and join the conversation!



curecommons.org

93 Shennecossett Road • Groton CT 06340

Start here. Work here. Grow here.

Join entrepreneurs, professionals, scientists, startups and growing companies developing ideas and building businesses in a collaborative, vibrant community setting.



Private and shared offices and laboratories, flex spaces and open environments. Conference rooms and event venues. Daily, weekly and long term coworking options available.



CURE Innovation Commons
93 Shennecossett Road
Groton CT 06340
860-446-6067 • curecommons.org

The Commons is the area's newest **incubator & coworking space**.

- High-speed gigabit internet and Wi-Fi access
- Café/kitchen and community gathering areas
- Teleconferencing, video conferencing & AV equipment
- Back-office support
- Shared laboratory equipment
- Picnic areas



For more information, contact kkelly@cureconnect.com or go to curecommons.org.

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

August 2016

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

On August 23, Planning and Economic Development staff met with General Dynamic leadership at the Electric Boat (EB) facility in the City of Groton. The meeting and discussion outlined Electric Boats future plans for dramatically increasing their production of attack submarines in the coming years. Also present were area legislators, business leaders, and other state and regional government representatives. Over the next 5 years, at its facilities in Rhode Island and Connecticut, EB plans to hire approximately 4,000 new employees and through retirements and attrition, will have to replace approximately 14,000 existing employees. These changes and the addition of employees will have a significant on the region's needs for housing and services.

OPDS began the process of choosing a consultant to Lean the department's approval processes. Lean is a method of analyzing a process to eliminate waste and to keep only those steps that add value. The department expects to apply this analysis to all application and approval processes.

Staff has seen considerable interest in converting existing buildings on and adjacent to Route 1 in downtown to small apartments. Discussions have been held regarding the conversion of two different long-underutilized properties.

Department staff coordinated a meeting regarding the construction of a new Grasso Technical High School. Local land use approvals will be necessary for new signage at the Fort Hill driveway. The meeting included a discussion regarding the use of the Grasso driveway as an access to the proposed new middle school on the Merritt property.

COMMISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Inland Wetland Agency

The Inland Wetland Agency determined that the removal of invasive species on the Kolnaski School property is permitted as of right. This work will be done by Electric Boat and is required by the State as part of the dam removal at their Poquonnock Road property.

ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

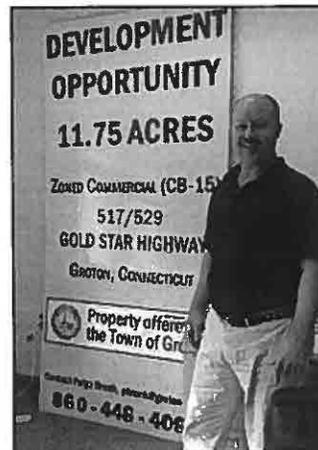
Airport Development Zone (ADZ): Staff has expended significant effort over the past weeks on finalizing the ADZ application effort with Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC). Economic Development staff hosted the quarterly

statewide Enterprise Zone Coordinators meeting. A tour of the Groton Airport was also provided with the assistance of Connecticut Airport Authority personnel.

Great Blue Research Survey: The Great Blue Research Survey questionnaires were completed and the telephone survey took place in mid-August. Approximately 450 residents and businesses responded to the survey which was devised to gauge consumer and business sentiments. The survey results will be available next month.

Public Property Redevelopment (517/529 Gold Star Highway):

This property is the top priority of several to be marketed. A Request for Development Proposals was issued in August. The town is looking for quality development proposals that will maximize financial benefit while respecting the site's location within the public drinking water supply watershed. Proposals are due in October and will initially be evaluated by OPDS staff before they are forwarded to the Town Council. A sign will be installed on the property and advertising will be placed in the New England Real Estate Journal.



Paige Bronk with sign to be installed on the Gold Star Highway property.

Land Use Applications	This Month	Fiscal Year to Date
Site Plans	1	1
Subdivisions	0	0
Inland Wetland Permits	0	0
Special Permits	0	0
Regulation/Map Amendments	0	0
Variances/Appeals	0	2
Cert. of Appr. of Location	0	0
Coastal Site Plans	0	0
Administrative Site Plans	3	7
Land Use Applications Submitted	4	10

INSPECTION SERVICES DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

- ◇ Total building fees collected for FYE 2017 less reimbursements: \$66,334
- ◇ Additions and renovations are underway to develop the former Sewtique location at 391 Long Hill Road into a day spa. Owner Kyla Adams is working with the Planning Department to obtain all necessary approvals.
- ◇ Improvements continue for the future Aldi's location at 688 Long Hill Road with the façade upgrade. The interior renovations will continue for several more months.
- ◇ New signage and a Certificate of Occupancy marked the opening of the new Rise Restaurant at 10 Water Street.
- ◇ Modifications were made at the Elementary Schools and Board of Education building to create staff offices.

ITEM	RECEIVED IN AUGUST	FISCAL YEAR 2017 TOTAL
BUILDING PERMITS	64	105
ELECTRICAL PERMITS	32	56
PLUMBING PERMITS	13	22
MECHANICAL PERMITS	26	46
SPRINKLER PERMIT	0	1
MOBILE HOME PERMITS	0	1
ESTIMATED VALUE	3,571,397	
RESIDENTIAL PERMITS ISSUED—NEW	1	5
ESTIMATED VALUE	140,000	722,000
RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS	40	70
NEW COMMERCIAL PERMITS	0	1
COMMERCIAL ADDITIONS	5	8
SIGNS	2	4
POOL PERMITS	0	0
SHED PERMITS	1	2
SINGLE FAMILY/DUPLEX UNITS APPROVED	14	14
TOTAL FEES COLLECTED (less reimbursements)	34,744	
CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY ISSUED	21	27
HDC CERTIFICATES OF APPROPRIATENESS	6	11
CODE ENFORCEMENT		
SIGN VIOLATIONS	0	0
VEHICLES/WASTE	1	3
OTHER ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS	0	0
PENDING LITIGATION	0	2
CASES RESOLVED	4	7
BLIGHT CODE	4	5