

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
JANUARY 20, 2011 – 12:15 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Pappas, Obrey, Mathanool
Staff: Barbara Strother

In Susan Dowling's absence, Lian Obrey will act as Secretary.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2010

MOTION: To approve the December 9, 2010 minutes, as written

Motion made by Mathanool, seconded by Pappas, so voted unanimously

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Local Bidding Process

Staff noted she had forwarded to Town Councilor Johnson the Commissions action at the December 9, 2010 meeting, but has not yet heard back from him on this matter.

2. Incentives Policy Review and Discussion

Pappas reported that at the December meeting, he and Fafard had offered to meet and draft potential language changes to the Incentives Policy but have not had the opportunity to get together yet.

3. Update on Mystic Streetscape Project

Staff distributed copies of latest Streetscape Newsletter and provided an update on the project. A brief discussion took place regarding an article in today's Day newspaper regarding the Streetscape and Bridge projects as well as snow issues in Downtown Mystic.

4. Update on Mystic Drawbridge Repair Project

Staff provided an update on the project.

5. Staff/Commission Member Reports and Updates

Positive news articles – Staff discussed the recent positive newspaper articles including a December 23, 2010 Day article on a \$3.22 million State grant to the Navy to construct bridge and galley training simulators to prepare submariners for the difficult tasks they will face aboard submarines; a January 12, 2011 article on the current strong economic climate at Electric Boat; and a January 13, 2011 article on UCONN bringing a nursing program to the Avery Point campus.

Upcoming Presentation to RTM (Jan. 26, 2011) – Staff noted that she will be providing an Economic Development overview to the RTM on January 26, 2011.

Vacancies – Some of the recent vacancies in Town, including Arrow Paper in the Groton Shopping Plaza, were discussed. Pappas and Obrey offered to meet with representatives of the Plaza to discuss potential future upgrades.

Staff also reported that she contacted Tim Horton’s corporate offices and offered to assist in helping market the reuse of the 2 Groton sites. The contact noted that they are open to inquiries and are looking to exit the market here by selling or transferring the lease to other parties. They have received a number of inquiries on the sites (which he could not share due to confidentiality), and assured her that they are working as hard as they can to get the sites utilized.

6. Other – None

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Lian Obrey, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist