

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
JANUARY 8, 2015 – 4:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Cote, Dowling, Legnos, Mathanool, Preka, Vignato, Young  
Staff: Clarke, Moukawsher, Reiner  
Other: B. Frink, J.Hartley, S. Deane-Shinbrot, S. Bailey, A. Valente

The meeting was called to order at 4:40 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

The following people spoke in support of the current Chairman:

- Town Councilor Rich Moravsik
- City Councilor Jay Dempsey
- Scott Aumet
- Leo Roche
- CT State Representative Aundre Bumgardner

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Groton Business Association- Report for EDC Liaison

Al Valente provided the following updates:

- Business Before Hours, January 15, 2015 at the Bayou Smoke House
- Business meeting to showcase Jon Reiner at Fairview on February 19, 2015
- A big business update on what is happening in the town at the May meeting.

2. Downtown Mystic Merchants Association- Report

Judy Hartley provided the following updates:

- Annual elections were held and five new board members were appointed.
- ERT District- January 12, 2015 deadline to apply for advertising grant.
- The Snowflake Social is being held on February 28, 2015. The tickets are \$40.00 with two drinks included.
- The road race will be held on March 21, 2015, sponsored by Groton Parks & Recreation.
- Shark Fest will be held on July 11, 2015.
- Could the DMMA events to be added on Town website and on Mystic.downtown.org?
- Bailey requested that the Groton Business Association be added to the Downtown Mystic Merchants Association's mailing list.

3. Town Council Liaison- Report

- The Town received seven proposals in response to the RFP for the Legislative Policy Initiative to Increase Revenues. Selection of the consultant will be made at the end of January.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF December 4, 2014

MOTION: To approve the minutes of December 4, 2014 as amended.

Motion made by Preka, seconded by Cote. Motion passed unanimously.

The Chairman made a motion to move the election of officers on the agenda. Motion was seconded by Dowling and passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of Officers

The Commission discussed the history and process of the rotation of officers. Staff asked about this process and Moukawsher said nothing has been done wrong in the past.

The Town Clerk distributed paper ballots. Motion made by Obrey to nominate the slate as presented. Moukawsher read the slate: Chair- Dowling; Vice Chairman- Preka; Secretary- Vignato. Motion was seconded by Young. Moukawsher asked for any other nominees. Cote nominated Mathanool for Chairman. Motion was seconded by Vignato. Nominations were closed. Written ballots were collected by Moukawsher.

Two volunteers were selected from the audience to count the ballots. There was a tie for the chairman seat.

Cote motioned to vote again, seconded by Dowling, with all in favor.

The Commission was re-balloted with a second tie.

Motion to suspend the by-laws to discuss allowing co-chairs was made by Obrey, seconded by Vignato. Motion was withdrawn.

Legnos motioned to suspend the by-laws to discuss allowing a co-chair and removing the vice chair. Motion was seconded by Young.

After discussion, the motion was withdrawn.

Moukawsher stated that the role of the chair is to run the meeting, take ideas collectively and put items on the agenda. It is the Town of Groton's Commission. The Commission discussed the role of a co-chair versus the role of a vice chair.

Legnos moved to suspend the by-laws to establish a way to break ties in elections. Motion was seconded by Mathanool. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to flip a coin for the Chairman's position was made by Preka, seconded by Vignato. Motion passed unanimously.

Moukawsher assigned "heads" to Mathanool and "tails" to Dowling.

Dowling won the coin toss for Chair.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone

The Commission discussed state and local tax credits and how they relate to the ADZ.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. RFQ – Market Analysis/ Zoning Audit

The Town is solicited requests for qualifications for a consultant to do a town wide market analysis and an audit of town zoning regulations to look at the process and what we are doing right and/or wrong. The consultant will be selected in a few weeks, and a Steering Committee will be formed.

2. Any Other Business

Mystic Streetscape

Leo Roche presented a letter expressing safety concerns from Phase I that is still not completed. The Town has not taken any action. Staff said they are working on this.

Other issues addressed by Roche's letter were:

Garbage cans are not big enough

Street Signs

Pearl Street utility pole

A piece of concrete not finished in front of his store room.

By-Laws Subcommittee

A By-laws Subcommittee was formed. Comprised of 3 EDC members, 1 GBA and 2 staff. The next meeting will be held January 14, 2014 at 3:45 p.m. at the Annex. Copies of notes will be made and distributed by the subcommittee.

Natural Gas

No progress has been made to date.

Mystic Indoor Sports

David Cote questioned how the process is being conducted, tax deferment/ abatement and questioned where the location is. Staff said it is being addressed by the Town Council.

VIII. REPORT OF STAFF

A written report was distributed at the meeting.

IX. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN - None

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:49 p.m. made by Obrey, seconded by Cote, so voted unanimously.

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Lian Obrey, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Kristin Clarke