

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
DECEMBER 4, 2014 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Cote, Dowling, Legnos, Mathanool, Preka, Vignato, Young
Staff: Norris
Other: B. Frink, J.Hartley, B. Smith

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

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Groton Business Association- Report for EDC Liaison - None
2. Downtown Mystic Merchants Association- Report

Judy Hartley provided the following updates:

- The Stroll was slow due to the weather. They hope to provide more advertising and a weather date for next year's stroll.
- Small Business Saturday was very successful for the downtown merchants.
- Working with the Eastern Regional Tourism District for bus tours downtown, and coordinating with the Seaport to park buses at the Seaport during tours.
- The Association is considering a Tourist Information Center for downtown. Discussion of the Chamber's center, which is staffed by volunteers.
- A road race is being planned with the Groton Parks & Recreation in conjunction with the Irish Parade.
- The Commission concurred to have a holiday social luncheon on Monday, December 15th, at 12:00 p.m. in the Captain's Room at Daniel Packer Inn, 32 Water Street. The price would be \$20.00 per person. The luncheon would be strictly social, and no business will be conducted.

Tom Vignato, the owner of Field of Fire in Mystic, was newly sworn in and introduced to the Commission.

3. Town Council Liaison- Report

B. Frink updated the Commission on the market-based assessment bid proposal which was sent out on November 7th. The RFQ closes on December 8th. He felt the Economic Development, Planning and Zoning Commissions should each be represented on the selection committee with one or two members. Review of the proposals would be December 9 – 19th. Staff explained the typical review process for RFQs. Oral presentations will take place during January, and selection is anticipated by January 30th. The Council will review the process and funding with the RTM next Wednesday. The consultant will be paid directly from the legislative policy account. The Commission discussed the organization of an independent group or team to execute the recommendations.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MEETING OF November 6, 2014

MOTION: To approve the minutes of November 6, 2014 as amended.

Motion made by Dowling.

Young said she wanted it noted in the minutes that she asked staff for a report on an item in the authorized ABC handbook, page 6, "...The Town may annually appropriate for its purposes one-twentieth of one percent of the last-completed grand list of taxable property. (CSG 7-136)" Young wanted clarification on this statute and when was it last used.

Motion seconded by Legnos. Motion passed unanimously.

The Commission moved to "New Business" on the agenda.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. RFQ – Market Analysis/ Zoning Audit

The Commission discussed the market study, zoning regulations, effecting change in Groton, and goals for the Commission and Planning Department

B. Frink said he would forward a copy of the legislative record of the study to the Chairman to pass on to Vignato.

2. EDC Charter

Young distributed a sign-up list for anyone who would like to serve on the EDC by-laws subcommittee.

Young said she spoke with the Town Manager about the by-laws of the Commission. He said he would locate a binder with information from the last resolution to change the by-laws, which was in 1997. Young said any Commissioners interested may serve on the committee, and any Commissioners could contact her with their recommendations for changes. Young said the Town's authorization of the Economic Development Commission was included in members' agenda packets.

Young will gather all comments and distribute to the Commission at the next meeting. The Subcommittee will meet before the next scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 8th, at 3:15 p.m.

The Commission felt that the purpose of the review of the by-laws is to more clearly define the Commission's advisory role. The Commission felt they should be involved with regard to the upcoming zoning changes, such as the Airport Development Zone, and should be presenting regular reports to the Town Council.

3. Any Other Business

At the Town Council Committee of the Whole meeting on November 18th, GBA Co-Chair Susan Bailey read a statement in support of the Town Council's consideration of tax abatements for the new tennis facility in Mystic.

The Commission discussed the vital role of tourism in Mystic, and the vision and strategies of the Commission.

Peter Legnos reported that he has been working on getting more information with regard to natural gas.

The Commission discussed mixed use zoning, zoning regulations, supporting small businesses, and working to make Groton look different.

The C-PACE program and recent presentation was reviewed by the Commission.

VII. REPORT OF STAFF

A written staff report was distributed in the agenda packet.

VIII. REPORT OF CHAIRMAN - None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. made by Dowling, seconded by Cote, so voted unanimously.

Lian Obrey, Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Debra Gilot
Office Assistant III