

SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MARCH 6, 2014 5:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Mathanool, Obrey, Dowling
Staff: None
Others: Bob Frink, Susan Dean-Shinbrot

Also in attendance: Andrew Lavery, Al Valente, Catherine Young, Rick Moravsik

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Leo Roche, Harp & Hound, commented about the Streetscape project. He stated that there are open items from the streetscape project. A utility pole on Pearl Street – needs improvement; sign on street for businesses not changed (need way-finding sign); garbage bins not changed, and banners and baskets were not put up.

Todd Brady – Randall’s Wharf, wanted to know what the plan is for the entrance by Daniel Packer Inn. Mr. Brady said he gave an easement to the Town, but they went back on their promise.

Bill Middleton said it took seven months to get a permit for existing property. Time is abused by staff.

Rod Desmarais, 81 High Street, spoke about the Central Hall project and the streetscape project. Pettini Contracting wanted to do work when the street was open. Contractors were told not to talk with owners of properties. The Town wanted a one foot sidewalk easement. The front line was done incorrectly. Property was dug up without owner’s approval. No easement in a year.

Gretchen Chipperini said she attended a trade show. Jay Fisher, who previously worked for Konover, was very pro Groton at the trade show. She asked what Kristin presented at the conference in Hartford, and asked if she spoke with Jay Fisher.

Ms. Chipperini will do a presentation at a show she will be attending in May in Las Vegas. It is very important to Groton’s growth to be there with an impressive presentation. She asked for a meeting with Kristin for her progress at the meeting.

Judy Hartley, GBA, said communication is a problem with downtown merchants association. A date will be set for the Spring Stroll.

A meeting is needed to review proposed seminar being done by GBA on business.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF January 7, 2014

Obrey moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2014. Motion was seconded by Dowling and passed unanimously.

The Commission voted to do their own agenda with staff support and addition, if needed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Business Incentives

Legnos building on Route 117 – check water and sewer.

2. Economic Gardening

Bob Frink – Kansas City – links to watch

3. “How to Guide”

There will be an ICN presentation at the next meeting.

V. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Update to Plan of Conservation & Development- Report from Liaison

2. Groton Business Association- Report from Liaison

3. City of Groton Community & Economic Development Committee- Report from Liaison (Keith Hedrick)

VI. REPORT OF CHAIR

The Chair reported that he would set up a meeting with the chairs of the Planning and Zoning Commissions for their thoughts on joining committees together.

VII. REPORT OF STAFF - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Lian Obrey, Secretary
Economic Development Commission