

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OCTOBER 1, 2015 – 4:45 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Dowling, Preka, Legnos, Cote, Young, Hatcher (4:58)  
Excused: Mathanool, Obrey, Vignato  
Other: Valente, Frink, Smith  
Staff: Clarke, Bronk, Post

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:51p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of meeting of September 3, 2015

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the September 3, 2015 meeting.

Motion made by Preka, seconded by Young, so voted unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS- None

IV. REPORTS

1. Chairperson – Chair’s report was previously submitted by email for review. Dowling mentioned that the annual report is being worked on and she would like input once the draft is completed and distributed. The election of officers is coming up for 2016. Interested parties could contact Dowling via phone or email if information is needed.
2. Strategic Planning Subcommittee – no meeting, no report.
3. Staff – Staff’s report was submitted in the agenda packet prior to the meeting for review. Staff provided updates on projects that are being worked on: finalizing of Airport Development Zone report, looking into grant opportunities, business outreach tracking, proposed strategy for marketing municipal properties, zoning audit and market analysis etc. Staff mentioned that they met with DECD on two occasions and discussed building relationships with businesses and exploring small business startup programs like “business express”. Staff spoke about work beginning on the “Business Welcome Package” once the content is received from the consultants it will help with the material. Preka asked what the distribution plan was of the Package, Staff mentioned a variety of ways including PDF online, placing them at the Chamber, as well as the Town Clerk.

A Q and A ensued between the Commission and Staff on various topics. Young asked if a letter of support from the EDC was needed for the 100 year celebration of the SUBASE. Staff said that it would be good and that help will be needed reaching out to businesses to see if there is interest participating in different capacities during the celebration. Frink stated that we should capitalize on the celebration.

4. Liaisons:

Groton Business Association- The GBA report was emailed to the commission prior to the meeting for their review. Valente provided a brief update.

Downtown Mystic Merchants – Valente provided updates on upcoming events: Pirate Invasion is October 2-4 and the mission is to spike tourism. He stated “mystic eats” was successful and was met with a lot of enthusiasm.

Town Council – No report

MOTION: To accept the reports presented.

Motion made by Legnos, seconded by Cote, so voted unanimously

Young left at 5:50pm

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Market Analysis and Zoning Audit Update- Report should be provided late October, should be available for the next EDC meeting.
2. Strategic Planning- Dowling presented Prichard with the commission’s top 6 priorities and asked that he share with the Planning Commission

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Jeff Pritchard Vice President/Secretary of the Planning Commission came in place of President James Sherrard to speak to the Commission about what is going on with the Planning Commission. They are updating the Plan of Conservation and Development. Pritchard mentioned that there isn’t a lot of land for industrial use. The Commission spoke about changes that needed to be made in the zoning regulations to allow for more uses of available land.

Legnos left at 6pm

Pritchard said there has been talk about zoning changes and they are hopeful the zoning audit will open the doors to change. Staff reminded that while the zoning changes would be helpful it doesn’t guarantee business will come in. A whole tool box is needed for bringing in businesses. Dowling gave Pritchard a copy of the top 6 priorities for the EDC and mentioned having a joint meeting. Pritchard will bring this to his commission.

2. Staff said “Business In Focus” out of Canada contacted Groton about a 6-8pg article that will highlight Groton. Once printed Staff will be provided with a

brochure in PDF form that can be loaded on thumb drives to hand out to prospective businesses. Smith showed interest in the project and offered assistance.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:32pm made by Hatcher, and was seconded, so voted unanimously

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Tom Vignato, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Lauren Post  
Office Assistant II