

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
OCTOBER 2, 2014 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Mathanool, Preka, Young, Cote, Cummings
Staff: Reiner, Clarke
Others: G. Cerf, R. Frink, B. Smith, J. Hartley, S. Bailey

The meeting was called to order at 4:41 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS –

Councilor Cerf mentioned that Councilor Moravsic is working on the USS Groton sail project, which is why he would not be in attendance at the meeting.

Young mentioned that she had a conversation with a business constructing a building in the Airport Business Park and he indicated to her that there were no more lots in the business park that were available for development.

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Groton Business Association- Report from EDC Liaison

Bailey provided the following report: Summer in the City has ended; it promoted over 100 events in the City throughout the summer and created an additional 10. Fall Festival is October 10th and will showcase 115 vendors; applications are still being accepted. 10/16 is next general meeting at Avery-Copp House at 7:30 am. November 20th is a C-PACE breakfast meeting at Groton Inn & Suites. Groton Lights Parade is the first Saturday in December. Annual Report: updated mission & vision statements; reprinted Groton Guide; Bridge Street banner Pilot program; GBA rack card.

2. Downtown Mystic Merchants Association – Report

Hartley mentioned that DMMA members had heard there may be a Phase III of Streetscape and was wondering what that would be. Hartley provided the following report: Mystic Eats was very successful but they don't have final financials from the event yet. The last Farmer's Market is tomorrow; they are considering finding a new location and changing it back to Friday mornings for next year. Pirate Festival is this weekend; Saturday events are aimed at adults and include a Pirate Pub Crawl; Sunday events are aimed at all ages. The Banner program is on hold; Judy will not be working on it any further but hopes that in the future the project takes shape. Bailey & Smith offered to work with DMMA to finalize the program if they are interested.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2014.

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2014 was meeting made by Preka, seconded by Mathanool. Motion passed unanimously (4-0-1- Cummings)

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone

A pre-application will be sent to DECD once maps are finalized, which was delayed due to departure of the Town's GIS Specialist. Maps should be completed by Monday at latest. Proposal will include a zone with a 2.5 mile radius, with documentation that shows 48% of original 2.0-mile radius zone to be undevelopable as either underwater or part of a state park. Narrative will also include conditional support given to project, a list of businesses located in zone, a list of manufacturers in surrounding municipalities, and maps that show: the original 2.0 mile radius zone, the 2.5 mile radius zone, the undevelopable land, and the commercial and industrial zoning districts that fall within the boundary.

Once the pre-application is submitted, we hope to learn what DECD needs in order to fully vet the proposed zone. In the meantime, we will be working to obtain letters of support and additional support information as requested.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Adoption of 2015 Meeting Schedule

Motion to adopt the 2015 meeting schedule as proposed made by Young, seconded by Cummings. Approved unanimously (5-0-0)

2. Any Other Business

Mathanool discussed the USS Groton sail. Many have been working to get the sail and fin moved from Washington State to Groton and to find a location for it. Clarke mentioned that a committee is working on the issue.

Mathanool left the meeting at 6:02 PM. The meeting adjourned for lack of a quorum.

VII. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff provided a written report and discussed:

- On September 16th, Governor Malloy announced an award of \$200,000 to the Town of Groton for a Brownfield Assessment grant which will allow the Town to bring in environmental consultants to assess contamination levels at the former Groton Heights Elementary School and the former Nutmeg Farms site on Poquonnock Road.

- The Town of Groton is co-sponsoring an event on October 8th at the Mystic Marriott entitled "How to Build a Biotech." The Town is partnering with SECT-en (Southeastern CT Entrepreneurs Network) and seCTer to host the event. A panel of entrepreneurs will discuss how to be a successful entrepreneur, followed by roundtable discussions and a networking reception.

- SECTER is in the process of updating the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. The Town of Groton submitted four projects to be considered as "Priority Projects" in the CEDS. The proposed projects have been forwarded to a committee for recommendation to include in the report.

- Staff attended the Northeast Economic Developers Association (NEDA) Conference in Worcester. A New England Defense Industry Supply Chain study has been completed and will be made public soon. It will show prime contractors, sub-contractors, and suppliers to defense installations in New England.

_____, Acting Secretary
Economic Development Commission

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Economic Development Specialist