

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
MAY 14, 2009  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TOWN HALL ANNEX  
12:00 P.M. - COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Lian Obrey, Susan Dowling, and George Mathanool  
Staff: Barbara Strother  
Other: Catherine Young, Airport Manager, Groton-New  
London Airport

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 2009

MOTION: To approve the March 19, 2009 minutes as written.

Motion made by Obrey, seconded by Mathanool, so voted unanimously.

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Update – Groton/New London Airport Manager, Catherine Young

Catherine Young provided a comprehensive overview of activities at the Groton–New London Airport, including an update of the Airport Master Plan which is underway. The Airport website provides detailed information on this update process. Ms. Young noted that the existing Master Plan for the airport was prepared in March, 1999. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires regular updates of all airport master plans in order to reevaluate airfield design and assess future needs. Among the items the Plan for the Groton-New London Airport will update is aircraft activity statistics and airfield and landside requirements, develop alternatives for future layout, and assess anticipated environmental impacts. The Master Plan process will also include review of the best use of unused land at the Airport. The Master Plan will further define the type and extent of development activities necessary for the airport to meet projected aviation demand. The plan covers a 20-year period through the year 2028.

The Master Plan update is funded by a grant from the FAA and the Connecticut Department of Transportation, and the process is expected to take approximately 18 months. A local advisory committee provides community input into the process. All meetings of the committee are open to the public.

Ms. Young then provided an update on the Runway Safety Area Project which is proposed to add a soft-ground arresting area at the end of the runways. Several studies and permits are required for this project. Ms. Young reviewed a map showing where the Runway Safety Area would be installed, and also

provided a video demonstrating how the EMAS (Engineered Material Arresting System) works.

Ms. Young also provided a history of commercial airline service at the Airport. She noted that the charter air service that was to provide service from the airport to Nantucket has decided they are not going to start in June as previously announced. Due to the current business climate, they have decided to wait until a time when the economy is stronger.

Ms. Young provided a packet of information on the Airport including an Economic Impact Update (Feb. 2009); a quarterly report for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2009 (including traffic counts, tenant aircraft inventory, noise complaint log and news article regarding the CT Legislature discussing investigating the feasibility of selling/privatizing several State airports) and information on the Noise Compatibility Program at the Airport.

The Commission was very appreciative of the wide variety of information on the airport that was provided. Ms. Young noted that there will be a meeting of the Airport Advisory Committee at 7 p.m. on July 21<sup>st</sup>, and prior to the meeting, there will be an airport tour. She encouraged interested members of the EDC to attend the tour/meeting.

## 2. Mystic Streetscape Update

Staff reported that she has completed the easement process for 16 properties. The final design plans will be completed soon.

## 3. Zoning Regulation Review and Update

Due to time constraints, no report was provided.

## 4. Review of Strategic Plan Implementation/EDC 2009 Work Program

Due to time constraints, no report was provided.

## 5. Staff/Commission Member Reports

Lian Obrey provided an update regarding an organization looking for space that she had provided Groton site information to.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

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Susan Dowling, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother  
Economic Development Specialist