

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MAY 2, 2013 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Obrey, Mathanool, Dowling, Smith, Yatko
Staff: Clarke
Other: Bob Frink, Mike Souza, Ed Patterson (4:50 pm)

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2013

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 4, 2013

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Yatko, so voted unanimously

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. WEBPAGE

The Commission requested notification as to when the updated content “goes live” and metrics from the site that might show visitation. The new webpage should be presented to the Council once it has been completed.

2. ECONOMIC GARDENING

The Commission inquired about moving forward with this program. Staff discussed potential business visits that might result in potential partnerships.

3. BANNERS ALONG BRIDGE STREET (PILOT PROGRAM)

Smith described the project, which would see 10-12 banners on light posts along Bridge Street. The City of Groton owns the posts and zoning would probably need to be modified to allow the banners. There would be a “Discover Groton” theme for the banners. If successful, a potential expansion could be to add banners along Thames Street.

4. DISCUSSION: DISTRIBUTION OF AGENDA PACKETS

After discussion, the Commission preferred to receive agenda packets via postal mail over email.

Obrey left the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

5. ZONING COMMISSION REFERAL

- a) REGA 13-01, Proposed Zoning Regulation Text Amendments to Section 1.1 (Purpose & Authority), Section 8.3-1 through 8.3-12

MOTION: To support the language originally drafted by Office of Planning & Development Services (OPDS) staff for Section 8.3.8, Section G “...The requirements of this subsection shall be met by

complying with the specific relevant express requirements of these Regulations...”

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

The Commission chose not to comment on the remainder of the proposed regulation text amendment until an opinion from the Town Attorney was received and reviewed.

b) REGA 13-03, Proposed Zoning Regulation Text Amendment to Sections 6.6.2, 6.6.7 and 6.6.9 (Flood Protection Regulations)

The Commission had no comment.

V. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff presented an update on various topics such as Business Retention, Economic Gardening, Website, Business Incentives, Small Business packets, Trade Name Certificates, and meetings she has recently attended.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made to adjourn at 6:05 p.m. by Dowling, seconded by Yatko, so voted unanimously

Susan Dowling, Secretary
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Kristin Havrilla Clarke
Economic Development Specialist