

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
May 3, 2018 – 5:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Young, Brooks, Preka, Legnos, Groves, Melin, Mathanool, Wright,  
Dowling  
Absent: Hatcher, Cote  
Other: Valente, Obrey, Gianacoplos, Franco  
Staff: Bronk, Post

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – Charles Bowe, Owner of Grand Wine and Spirits came and spoke to the commission regarding his business at the Stop and Shop Shopping Plaza in Groton. He had some concerns he discussed regarding taxes on improvements he had made in the space he is in. Franco suggested he come to the Town Council to speak during Citizens concerns and they may be able to take it up as an item.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 5, 2018

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 5, 2018 meeting.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Melin; so voted unanimously.

IV. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. 2018 Guest Speakers – A suggested list of speakers for 2018 was provided for consideration. Mayor Keith Hedrick was added to the list by recommendation of Melin.

The purpose of the speakers was reviewed as well as scheduling.

The order of priority was discussed and adjusted.

MOTION: To accept the list of speakers in order of priority was made by Dowling, seconded by Groves. So voted unanimously

2. Economic Development Collaboration Sub Committee- Melin reviewed the priorities of the subcommittee and the four groups that they have put a focus on and how they will be reaching out to the contacts of these groups. Melin also stated that while the subcommittee is prioritizing, this is the work of the whole group and he welcomes other participants. Melin will try to schedule the Mayor for the June EDC meeting.

V. REPORT OF CHAIR AND STANDING COMMITTEES

Chairperson - Chair report was included in the agenda packet and sent previously via email. The report was reviewed by Young. Young added that she attended the Zoning Commission meeting, the topic was signage and parking.

Economic Assistance Fund – Staff held two meetings this past month regarding 10 Fort Hill Road which will be brought forth under New Business in the agenda.

Business Outreach – The minutes were included in the packet. Groves added that the one thing that needed to be stressed was to get outreach done, really listen to the business owners to obtain information.

#### VI. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff report was included in the agenda packet and sent previously via email. The report was reviewed by Bronk.

#### VII. REPORT OF LIAISONS

Naval Submarine Base New London – Wright stated that the Navy report was submitted previously.

Town Council – Franco reported that the Council completed the budget and there is just over a 2% increase. Education monies remained the same and some CIP's that have been put off had to be approved due to being put off for so long. It has now been sent to the RTM. The Council has been receiving complaints about raising the prices for the transfer station but Franco believes the benefits outweigh the cost of closing. Franco spoke about the beautification of the Poquonock Village District, she suggested some sort of plantings along the route to spruce up the area.

Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce – Valenti stated they were in the final stages of the go local gift cards that will replace the Mystic Dollars program. They are looking to implement it in time for summer. They are looking to extend Chamber membership to Groton businesses. The thought of having a new card for Groton businesses has been discussed offering varied promotions. The youth development program was successful and was capped off with a youth job fair. The Annual Business Update will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup> at the Mystic Marriott.

Downtown Mystic Merchants – Gianacoplos reported that the Central Hall is still going well with no complaints from business owners. The May stroll is this weekend; weather should be good, the hours are 11a-7p.

Groton Utilities – Brooks stated that the report was sent previously, he did note the ground breaking ceremony for Groton Utilities was held on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Dowling left at 7:01p

#### VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. 10 Fort Hill Road – Staff provided the commission with the full Economic Assistance Fund application packet. Bronk reviewed the purpose of the fund, the discussions with the applicant, and how Staff and the committee came to the number brought forward. Bronk reviewed the process of the expenditure of the funds. The

Committee brought up a point of having a sign placed that the Town of Groton was a partner with the project.

Motion to approve the application was made by Melin, seconded by Preka, motion passed 4-0-2, 2 abstentions (Groves and Legnos).

2. Letter from David Preka to Superintendent – Preka brought forth an issue regarding Grasso Tech eliminating the Carpentry Division. Preka stated that they need more carpenters. Preka wrote a letter in support and received a call from Sommers to meet at Capitol. Preka is asking for the EDC to draft a letter of support for continuing the carpentry program at Grasso Tech.

Legnos made a motion to draft a letter to the Superintendent and Joe Courtney seconded by Mathanool so voted unanimously.

Staff will draft letter for the Chair to sign.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. was made by Legnos, seconded by Groves; so voted unanimously.

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Karen Hatcher, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Lauren Post  
Office Assistant II