

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
JUNE 5, 2014 – 4:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 2

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Mathanool, Obrey, Preka, Dowling, Young

Staff: Jones

Others: S. Dean-Shinbrot, B. Frink, B. Smith, J. Hartley, S. Bailey

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Update to Plan of Conservation & Development- Report from EDC Liaison

Mathanool noted that he had not attended the last Steering Committee meeting and asked B. Smith to update the Commission on the meeting. Smith reviewed the purpose of the POCD update and stated the May Steering Committee meeting was the last. The Committee members reviewed the draft POCD document and have until June 6 to provide additional comments to staff. The Planning Commission will begin their detailed review later in June.

2. Groton Business Association- Report from EDC Liaison

S. Bailey reviewed the marketing focus for the GBA including the pilot banner program on Bridge Street. She also reviewed the Summer in the City program of events and the Thames River Heritage Park project. The Commission suggested that a link to the Summer in the City program be placed on the Town's economic development web page.

3. Downtown Mystic Merchants Association – Report

J. Hartley reviewed the progress of the streetscape project and its impact on her business. She has difficulty communicating with the project manager. Frink suggested that she contact the Town Manager or Council members if she does not get answers to her questions. She can also contact the Acting Director of Planning and Development.

Hartley noted that a Farmer's Market will be held twice a month during the summer and early fall and that there will be a Mystic Eats food festival the first weekend in September. The Commission would like links to these two events on the economic development web page.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 1, 2014

The Commission noted that the minutes did not reflect their discussion regarding the addition of a GBA member as an ex-officio EDC member or their recommendation regarding a new EDC member if Lisa Wood resigns. They tabled approval of the minutes to the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone

The Commission reviewed the draft Airport Development Zone map and the requirements of the Connecticut Airport Authority. Staff noted that an economic impact statement must be developed before submitting a proposal. The DECD and the Airport Authority both have 60 days to review the map and proposal.

Frink suggested hiring a contract employee to put together the proposal and to implement other economic development projects. Smith noted that employee should report to the Economic Development Specialist. He agreed to help Frink put together a proposal for the Town Council to review. The Commission expressed support for this effort and would like to review the proposal before it is presented to the Council.

Young asked that staff develop a timeline for the Airport Development Zone application, noting that time is of the essence.

Obrey left the meeting at 5:55 PM. The meeting adjourned for lack of a quorum.

Lian Obrey, Secretary
Economic Development Commission