

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

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Mathanool, Obrey, Chambers, Legnos, Young
Staff: Clarke
Others: B. Frink, B. Smith, A. Valente

The meeting was called to order at 4:49 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

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

B. Smith reported that the draft POCD had been forwarded to the Planning Commission for 6 months of fine-tuning. The commission discussed ways to implement the recommendations in the POCD and ways to engage the community to focus on economic development.

2. Groton Business Association- Report from EDC Liaison

Valente reported that the GBA participated in Columbia Air's Open House on June along with the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and Town Staff on June 28th. The Open House received about 300 attendees and there were 20 vendors there. The GBA handed out visitor information about Groton. "Summer in the City" is in full swing with events every weekend and is supporting businesses in the City. The GBA is beginning a membership drive and have created a brochure. Their goal is to have stronger membership and therefore a stronger voice. The GBA is hoping to participate in the welcome for the cruise ship coming to New London in July.

3. Downtown Mystic Merchants Association – Report

No report

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 1, 2014 and JUNE 5, 2014

Motion to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2014 meeting made by Young, seconded by Cummings. Motion passed unanimously (5-0-0)

Motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2014 meeting made by Legnos, seconded by Obrey. Motion passed unanimously (4-0-1)

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone

Staff reported that a general timeline has been put together where the report required by DECD would be compiled and finalized by the end of August. This would allow for a review by DECD in September & October and a review by the CAA in November & December. If legislative action is required by the Connecticut General Assembly, this timeline would allow for legislation to be introduced when the legislative session opens in January. Staff will make an informational presentation to Town Council Committee of the Whole next week and distributed referral and background information for Commission's review

2. Format of Agenda, Minutes or Action Plan

Tabled

3. Future meetings

Tabled

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Budget/Work Plan proposal

Staff reported that a draft budget was compiled to provide an idea to the Town Council Committee of the Whole next week. Staff provided the referral and budget proposal to Commission members for comment.

2. Any Other Business

Councilor Frink presented information that he planned to present to Town Council Committee of the Whole regarding how to move forward with the \$200,000 in Legislative Policy Funds and complete a market based assessment of economic opportunities in Groton. Smith asked what is Groton's locational advantage. Legnos stressed the importance of incremental spending and a development plan to add needed infrastructure.

Motion to adjourn at 6:47 p.m. made by Obrey, seconded by Cummings; passed unanimously.

Lian Obrey, Secretary
Economic Development Commission