

MINUTES  
**SPECIAL MEETING**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
JULY 9, 2015 – 4:45 P.M.  
BEACON BAR & GRILL  
155 TOWER AVENUE  
(GROTON-NEW LONDON AIRPORT TERMINAL)

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Dowling, Hatcher, Legnos, Obrey, Young  
Absent: Cote, Preka, Mathanool, Vignato  
Other: Paige Bronk, Bob Frink, Judy Hartley, Mayor Rita Schmidt, Bill Smith  
Staff: Clarke

Chairperson Dowling called the meeting to order at 4:58 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of meeting of June 4, 2015

Motion to approve the minutes of June 4, 2015 as amended passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS - None

IV. REPORTS

1. Chair - The Chair's report was emailed to the Commission prior to the meeting for their review.
2. Work Plan Subcommittee – Dowling reported that the committee met yesterday at the Beacon with Jon Reiner to discuss how to take the Top 6 priorities and create projects based on the priorities. Obrey would like to see a timeline and an assessment of what things can and cannot be done until other items are completed. The next tasks are to find 2-3 projects and to focus on moving them forward to completion. Legnos would like to see metrics established to gauge effectiveness of programs. Young expressed interest in conducting exit interviews. Commissioners should email their interest in working on one of the Top 6 projects to her.
3. Staff – Staff provided updates on the market analysis and land use regulatory update project as well as the addition of a zoning review and market analysis for the Mystic Education Center. Staff clarified the purpose of the project and the three main projects covered by the scope: analysis of land use regulations; market analysis; and identification of priority sites for development. Staff has been working closely with the Thames River Heritage Park's transition team subcommittee to pave the way for the establishment of a non-profit to work with DEEP/DECED to manage the park.
4. Liaisons:

Groton Business Association- The GBA's next meeting will feature Representative John Scott providing a legislative update and Town Councilor Rich Moravsic providing an update on the USS Groton sail. Hartley mentioned that she has an interview scheduled with a consultant who is conducting a feasibility study related

to the project. The Fall Festival is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup> and vendors must register by July 17<sup>th</sup> for the discounted early bird registration rate.

Downtown Mystic Merchants – The DMMA was awarded a marketing matching grant from DECD for out of state marketing and will be working with Quinn & Hary to manage the program. Sharkfest is this weekend beginning at 7:30 at the Mystic Seaport. Volunteers are needed for Mystic Eats, which is taking place September 11-13.

Town Council – Councilor Frink did not have an activity report, but led a conversation about the financial incentives research that was completed by an EDC subcommittee in 2012. Dowling requested that staff forward copies of the handouts electronically to the commission.

Motion to accept the committee reports as reported was made by Obrey and seconded by Young. Motion passed unanimously.

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone – Staff reported that the legislation that would allow the shift of the ADZ boundary received a public hearing, but did not make it out of committee. As a result, the ADZ application will be submitted once it is finalized and reviewed internally. Young reported that the application process has changed because administration of the ADZ program and approval of new ADZs has reverted back to DECD, and the CAA no longer plays a role in the administration of ADZs.
2. Market Analysis/Zoning Audit – Staff reported that the next meeting of the Focus Group is July 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Annex and everyone is welcome to attend. The consultants will present their initial review of the zoning and subdivision regulations.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Work Planning Discussion

Dowling reported that the committee met yesterday at the Beacon with Jon Reiner to discuss how to take the Top 6 priorities and create projects based on the priorities. Obrey would like to see a timeline and an assessment of what things can and cannot be done until other items are completed. The next tasks are to find 2-3 projects and to focus on moving them forward to completion. Legnos would like to see metrics established to gauge effectiveness of programs. Young expressed interest in conducting exit interviews. Commissioners should email their interest in working on one of the Top 6 projects to her.

2. Other Business

Obrey said she would like a presentation from recreation director on his proposal for a multi-field venue for sporting competitions. She would like to see if the commission can help him move his proposal forward.

Frink said he would like to get an update on the tax abatements granted by the Town for Building 114 and the sports center, and how they are working for the

businesses. Frink said Building 114 might be another location for a remote meeting in the future.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. made by Obrey, seconded by Dowling, so voted unanimously.

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Tom Vignato, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Kristin Havrilla Clarke  
Economic Development Specialist