

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
September 1, 2016 – 4:45 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Dowling, Preka, Young, Cote, Hatcher  
Absent: Vignato, Legnos, Mathanool  
Other: Obrey, Valente, Nault, Barber  
Staff: Bronk, Post

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:52 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 28, 2016 Special Meeting

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the July 28, 2016 meeting as amended.

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Cote; motioned passed 4-0 and 1 abstention (Hatcher)

August 4, 2016

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the August 4, 2016 meeting

Motion made by Dowling, seconded by Hatcher; so voted unanimously

III. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS- None

IV. REPORTS

1. Chairperson – Preka apologized for not submitting a report. Preka did meet with Bronk this month.
2. Staff –Staff report was previously submitted by email for review.

ADZ- Bronk has the final draft of the application for review. Staff will submit the application to DECD by the end of next week. Bronk reminded the commission that the application has nothing to do with the change of the two mile radius. The application is being submitted to receive certification. Once certification is received Staff will try to adjust the radius. The DECD toured the Airport with Young when the Town hosted the Enterprise Zone quarterly meeting. Attendees are the same personnel that will review the application and were highly impressed with the Town's efforts.

GreatBlue- Volunteers from the EDC worked with staff to finalize the surveys, both residential and business. Greatblue started the surveys on August 15<sup>th</sup> and

completed them on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Staff is expecting the results any day and they will be made public to anyone who inquires.

Town Property- Staff will be marketing excess Town owned property to get the properties on the tax roll. The first property being marketed will be Gold Star Highway. The Request for Proposals (RFP) will go out on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Staff has been putting the RFP together and will be turned over to purchasing for review. A Real Estate sign has been purchased and will go up soon. Mystic Oral School, Groton Heights, and the property behind Gabriele's are the next ones that Staff will be looking to market.

Marketing/Web- Staff reviewed the desired features for the stand alone economic development website internally. Staff will be working with Camoin who will be helping with the RFP. Camoin will also be helping prepare hard copy materials to be used at conferences and for new business prospects.

CT NEXT Innovation- Groton has been working with SPARK, CURE, New London and City of Groton on a project targeting grant funding. Staff is requesting support at the September 6th Town Council meeting.

CDBG- Staff had a meeting with the Housing Authority to kick off project as funding was received.

LEAN Programming- Staff is currently working with a consultant on LEAN programming. The OPDS Department will be the first in Groton to be evaluated for procedural streamlining efforts.

3. Liaisons:

Groton Business Association – Valente stated Air and Sea was a wonderful event. They were disappointed with the attendance as they had hoped for more but the event was well done. The next GBA meeting is September 15<sup>th</sup> at CURE innovations, the new incubator near Pfizer. Valente stated this will be an interesting meeting to attend. The October meeting is being moved to the evening and will be at Outer Lights Brewery, the date and time is to be determined. The annual Fall Festival is October 8<sup>th</sup>, Valente stated they were still looking for trucks for the touch a truck, Preka said he could help. Valente spoke about the Long Island Sound dredging plan. Valente stated that New York is not happy with the plan as it has been presented. Valente said the plan is important for the seaports and marinas in Connecticut and asked that letters be sent to support the plan and to just be aware of the situation.

Downtown Mystic Merchants – Valente is still working to have the sidewalks cleaned downtown. 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Mystic Eats is September 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>. They will have a rock wall and a dunk tank and are in need of volunteers. The Chamber signed a lease for 62 Greenmanville Avenue across from Latitude 41. The Chamber is moving in a new direction becoming more of a tourism information area and this location is perfect for that. The Chamber is fully staffed including a new marketing/social media person, but is still seeking to fill the president role.

RTM – Obrey stated that the big discussion at the RTM was the vote to put the School Facilities Initiative through to a referendum vote in November. Young asked if there was something that the EDC should do to help and that the town residents should be informed about what is included in the Initiative. Lengthy

discussion ensued about the referendum and the best way for the EDC to support it and to get the word out to residents.

Town Council – No report submitted

4. Subcommittee- No meeting, no report

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Preka met with Mayor Galbraith regarding the status of the City EDC. At this time there is no chair and they have lost some members and they have a hard time with a quorum. Galbraith has asked Preka to postpone any meeting. Preka stated the hope for joint EDC is on hold right now.

Young made a motion to put meetings on hold until further notice is given from Chair, motion seconded by Dowling and passed unanimously.

2. Melin has reached out to Preka about joining the town EDC. Preka forwarded Melin's resume to Oefinger, Preka asked the commission members to forward the names and resumes of anyone they know that would be interested in becoming part of the Town EDC to Staff.
3. Meeting Start Time- Preka stated that meeting times would be left at 4:45p. Preka discussed communication regarding attendance. The bylaws were reviewed regarding appointments and attendance. Nault suggested having alternates to always ensure a quorum. Preka stated that the more names he has the better and agreed that alternates are a good idea.

#### VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. EDC Strategic Meeting- The in depth discussion on this topic was tabled. Dowling asked if we planned on having another workshop with Kelly, to which Bronk responded that they had planned on another workshop.

Hatcher asked to add to the agenda for an update on the zoning rewrite. Bronk stated that he can provide it in writing because it isn't his project.

#### VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:49 pm made by Dowling, seconded by Young; so voted unanimously.

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Catherine Young, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Lauren Post  
Office Assistant II