

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
September 4, 2014 – 4:30 P.M.  
TOWN HALL ANNEX – COMMUNITY ROOM 1

I. ROLL CALL

Commission: Mathanool, Dowling, Legnos, Preka, Young, Cote  
Staff: Oefinger, Clarke  
Others: R. Moravsic, R. Frink, J. Hartley, A. Valente

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 PM.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS – None.

III. REPORT OF COMMITTEES

1. Groton Business Association- Report from EDC Liaison

Valente provided the following report: the GBA’s Annual Fall Festival will take place on October 11<sup>th</sup>. It is the 9<sup>th</sup> year for the festival and all the revenue from vendors provides funding for GBA events throughout the year. September 6<sup>th</sup> is a press conference providing an update on the Thames River Maritime Heritage Park; the park concept shows great potential to bring tourism to the west side of town. The GBA has regular monthly meetings and business before breakfast events; on November 20<sup>th</sup> there will be an educational forum about C-PACE.

2. Downtown Mystic Merchants Association – Report

Hartley provided the following report: Mystic Eats food festival is this weekend; 25 restaurants will be participating and there will be lots of entertainment. The Pirate Festival will be the first weekend in October and Saturday will be focused more on adult activities and Sunday will be more kid friendly activities. Hartley is meeting again on Tuesday to discuss the proposed Banner program with Town Council; she received a lot of good input from Council and needs to know whether funding is in place before getting the banners designed.

Mathanool requested a report from the Town Council Liaison.

Frink provided the following report: The Council is moving forward with the proposal for a consultant. They are interested in having the zoning regulations reviewed and in having the opportunity areas in town assessed. The goal is to answer the questions of ‘How would you recoup the tax revenues from Pfizer?’ and ‘Where would you put the chips, if anywhere?’ Oefinger added that the proposal is being drafted.

A discussion ensued about spurring economic development efforts in Groton.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 7, 2014.

Motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2014 meeting made by Dowling, seconded by Legnos. Motion passed unanimously (6-0-0)

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Airport Development Zone

Staff provided an introduction to Charlie Duffy, who is the consultant working on the project. Mr. Duffy has been working with representatives from DECD and the CAA to determine what they are looking for in the report and is getting conflicting requests. Staff and the consultant met with several businesses to discuss existing business and future needs and put in contact with Consultant. Staff worked with Assessor and IT to put together updated map and list of businesses within the proposed zone. Staff worked with seCTer to put together list of manufacturing companies located in neighboring towns. We are still on track to get a report to DECD by the end of September provided that the clarification regarding what information they are looking for in the report is received.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Any Other Business

Mathanool mentioned the Aerospace conference taking place at the Mystic Marriott in a few weeks and his interaction with the Department of Commerce in attempting to get a Groton presence at the event. Young added that the conference will expose international manufacturers in the aerospace industry to the Southeastern Connecticut region. Mathanool asked Staff to reach out through Representative Courtney's office to request information about the airport be included with handouts given to attendees of the conference.

VII. REPORT OF STAFF

Staff provided a written report.

Dowling & Legnos left the meeting at 6:16 PM. The meeting adjourned for lack of a quorum.

Lian Obrey, Secretary  
Economic Development Commission