

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
OCTOBER 20, 2008
MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONFERENCE ROOM

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Co-chairs Bill Abt and Josh Lyons 8:00 a.m.

Those in attendance were William Abt and Josh Lyons, Stonington; Mayor Harry Watson, Mark Oefinger, Michael Murphy, Barbara Strother and Peter Roper, Town of Groton; Ed Haberek, Peter Balestracci and Bill Haase, Town of Stonington; Tricia Cunningham, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; Bill Parent, Mystic Seaport; John Kennedy, Mystic Flag Committee; Bill Scheer, Mystic River Park; and Sara Lathrop, Stonington.

II. DISCUSSION OF MEETING SUMMARY OF JUNE 16, 2008

The minutes of August 18, 2008 were accepted as amended.

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Update on TEA-21 Streetscape/Bridge Repair Projects

Groton – Michael Murphy reported that Town staff is focusing on meeting with the 16 +/- property owners regarding the necessary easements. Murphy also noted the reductions in the scope of the utilities being undergrounded in light of cost increases by CL&P and reviewed how these reductions will impact the project. It is hoped that the final plans will be completed for the streetscape project by the end of next month, bidding undertaken in the winter, with work to start sometime in the spring.

Stonington – Bill Haase reported that only 6 easements were needed for the Stonington portion of the project and they have met with each of the property owners and hope to have all paperwork completed by the end of October, then the necessary documents will be recorded in Land Records. Some work is being done currently e.g. work at Cottrell Street (manhole and catch basins) in anticipation of the new curb line which is part of the project.

Haase noted that wayfinding signage is being finalized to assist with pedestrian movement, especially to the Seaport. Groton will have wayfinding signage at Water Street. It was noted the flag pole sockets are remaining. It is hoped that future funding can be secured which will provide the opportunity to continue/complete the work originally envisioned.

B. Update on Transportation Study Project

This \$495,000 earmark for the traffic study has been slowed down by CONNDOT, it is hoped that a draft scope will be completed soon between the Town and

CONNDOT. Since this is a reimbursable grant, they need to have a signed contract first before this begins. It was suggested that an Advisory Committee with representatives from Stonington, Groton, the Seaport, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and the major traffic generators would be helpful in providing broader guidance and assistance with the public process portion of the project.

C. Mystic Shuttle

Tricia Cunningham reported that a group met in mid-September to discuss the history of the shuttle and what the shuttle could look like. The next steps will include a meeting following this meeting to discuss an RFP for SEAT to determine what funding would be required. The group discussed the loss of \$3 million in funds originally dedicated to the regional intermodal transportation project due to a budget technicality and lack of support in Hartford for this project. COG will be meeting to try and redefine the project and request that the full amount be funded for this demonstration project.

D. Adoption of 2009 Meeting Schedule

The Task Group adopted the following 2009 Meeting schedule:

Monday, February 23, 2009
Monday, April 20, 2009
Monday, June 15, 2009
Monday, August 17, 2009
Monday, October 19, 2009
Monday, December 14, 2009

E. Other

Ed Haberek spoke about the very successful site familiarization tour that seCTer and the regional/town representatives hosted September 24-26. It was a great example of how Southeastern Connecticut can work together.

Peter Roper reported that the Community Bikes Program will start planning for next year soon, and if anyone has ideas on the program to please forward them to Tricia Cunningham or Peter. There will be a November 13th thank you event for those involved.

Discussion on the Bridge Project took place, and since the latest date we have for the project is Nov/Dec. 2009, it was suggested that DOT be invited to meet with the Task Group prior to any planned public meetings.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Prepared by Barbara Strother
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Town of Groton