

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP  
MEETING SUMMARY  
OCTOBER 20, 2014  
GREATER MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE  
12 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR, MYSTIC

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Walsh at 9:05 a.m.

Those in attendance were Rick Norris (Town of Groton); Sara Lathrop (Town of Stonington); Bill Scheer (Mystic River Park); Tricia Walsh (Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce); Ed Dombroskas (Eastern Regional Tourism District)

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 18, 2014 MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of August 18, 2014 meeting.

Motion made by Lathrop, seconded by Scheer, so voted unanimously.

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- A. Paving & Lighting Updates (Towns of Groton & Stonington) – Updated on project and related street/ parking improvements.

It was noted that the bridge has pinion problems; Banner installation information was provided to the Merchants Association and downtown parking issues were discussed.

- B. Partner Engagement- Progress Report & Introductions

Kristin Clarke sent out letters requesting participation. It was noted that attendance at Merchant Meetings is less and that the Merchant Association has joined the Mystic Chamber. Sara Lathrop stated she would talk to Stonington about representation.

- C. Work Plan – discussion of transportation plan review/ projects

Although a specific work plan was discussed, items were not defined. Sara Lathrop brought up the type of collaboration that is required for cruise ships and how we transport people from New London to Mystic. Extra bus runs, expanding water taxi if put in place, or other shuttles were discussed.

Ed Dombroskas discussed how to provide additional services. He mentioned that the Cruise Ship Task Force will hibernate or disband. Funding is no longer an advantage. The landing at the New London State Pier and security cause costs to be high. Without the Cruise ship Task Force and supporting fees, the ships cannot come. The state has established a new Port Authority. Right now any transportation would have to be done through the Tour Coordinator.

The parking of buses for tours to Mystic was discussed. A safe place to drop off passengers is needed as well as a place to park the buses. The Seaport

and Aquarium are the primary points of interest. The Tour Guide would then need to export the tourists from Olde Mistick Village, Mystic Seaport and Mystic Aquarium.

D. 2015 Meeting Schedule – frequency of meetings was discussed.

E. Updates from Task Group members

Mystic Chamber of Commerce reported that the Visitors Center at the Amtrak depot will be closed in January and February due to funding limitations. In January of last year seven people visited the Visitors Center while in February only twenty people visited. The Chamber received no responses for funding requests from Amtrak or the Town of Stonington. Amtrak makes one million a year from ticket sales out of that building.

Marine Affairs Committee of the Chamber stopped preparing a Mystic boaters guide 2 years ago. The CT Marine Trades Association is working on a replacement. The lighted boat parade was mentioned.

Sara Lathrop reported that POCD for Stonington is nearly complete. The maps will be contracted out. POCD will be submitted to the Planning & Zoning Commission in November and is expected to be done in February 2015.

Overlap with other groups can be used to the Task Force's advantage, as members attend scCTer and Greater Mystic Tourism District meetings. Working with these groups could help to accomplish some actions that the Task Force would like to take.

Mystic Multimodal Transportation Study of February 2011 was discussed along with the Mystic River Park parking.

Potential USS GROTON Sail locations were discussed.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

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Prepared by Rick Norris  
Program/Project Manager  
Town of Groton