

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
DECEMBER 15, 2014
GREATER MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE
12 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR, MYSTIC

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Walsh at 8:00 a.m.

Those in attendance were Kristin Clarke; Jonathan Reiner; Peter Roper; Rita Schmidt; (Town of Groton); Sara Lathrop; Lou Allyn; George Crouse (Town of Stonington); Tricia Walsh (Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce); Ben Helm (Mystic River Park); Jerry Olson (Olde Mystic Village); Michael Souza (The Sun); Adam Thomas (Mystic Area Ecumenical Council); John Kennedy (Mystic Flag Committee); Judy Hartley (Downtown Mystic Merchants);

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF October 20, 2014 MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of October 20, 2014 meeting.

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

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Partner Engagement

Walsh will provide contact information for the Mystic Seaport and the Mystic Aquarium to inquire who would be the appropriate point of contact. Other suggestions included a representative from SEAT or the COG.

B. Work Plan

Walsh began the conversation stating that a plan of action is needed. Lathrop followed saying that a lot has been done. The Commission discussed the possibility of tour buses and parking options. Topics included were:

- Downtown churches allowing employee parking with a stipulation.
- Parking at the old voting hall.
- Downtown Mystic is walkable from the Mystic Seaport.
- Attendees at community events are growing and there is need for free parking that does not cause a safety concern.
- Tourist District is interested in establishing a bus drop off and waiting area for buses.
- Establish a transportation subcommittee to discuss issue further.

A discussion followed concerning the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce's ongoing question regarding the train depot visitor center. They are proposing that Amtrak fix the basement and water issue. A cost analysis ran in the winter was sent to Amtrak. Plowing and heating for

this location was \$13,000. An answer from Amtrak should be received sometime next week. If Amtrak's answer is no, the train depot and visiting center will close January and February.

The group structure and membership was discussed. The commission bylaws and mission statement were brought up as well as the group being a vehicle collaborator between two towns.

C. Update from Task Group Members

Kennedy stated that in May and August the flags were stolen. Klewin donated \$1,000 and Densmore donated \$500 to replace the flags. Security systems have been installed to prevent further theft. Historical book are on sale for \$5.00 covering the years from 1862-2012.

Hartley reported that the downtown merchants are exploring a visitor information store front on Main Street.

Roper reported that bike ridership is up 40 percent and he is getting ready for next year, Interest in possible new locations but needs resources and volunteers.

Clarke reported that there were seven responses to the RFQ.

Jon Reiner stated that the Punchlist for Phase 2 Street Scape is being worked on. Phase 3 is pending due to funding. Once the money is available and the dollar figure is known, the next projects will then be decided on.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

Prepared by Kristin Havrilla Clarke
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Town of Groton