

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
DECEMBER 8, 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, Rita Schmidt, Michael Murphy, and Barbara Strother Town of Groton; Ed Haberek and Peter Balestracci, Town of Stonington; Tricia Cunningham, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce; Bill Parent, Mystic Seaport; John Kennedy, Mystic Flag Committee; Bill Scheer, Mystic River Park; Jerry Olson, Olde Mistick Village, Harriet Bessette, Mystic Country.

II. DISCUSSION OF MEETING SUMMARY OF OCTOBER 20, 2008

The minutes of October 20, 2008 were accepted as written.

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

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

Groton – Michael Murphy reported that Town staff is in the process of submitting final plans to CONNDOT, and also finishing up the easement process with the 16 +/- property owners. Barbara Strother provided an overview of the necessary requirements for the easement process. Michael Murphy also noted that contract modifications have gone to the Town Council (utility relocation contract and some added services), and the final construction contract will go to the Town Council in the near future. It is hoped that given the current economic environment, that the bids will come in lower than estimated. At this point, bidding is estimated to take place in March with construction starting in late spring. Construction is estimated to take 12-18 months.

Michael Murphy also reported that the Streetscape Project is going to the Traffic Authority and the Planning Commission for coastal site plan review and approval this month.

Stonington – Ed Haberek noted that Bill Haase has recently undergone surgery, and is not expected to return to work for a few months. The Committee expressed their wishes for a speedy recovery for Mr. Haase. It was noted that Joe Bragaw will be attending the next few meetings. Stonington has finalized their last easement (6 easements were needed for the Stonington portion of the project), and are now ready to go forward with the next step.

It was noted that it was recently learned that the Bridge project has been delayed another year and work is now estimated to start the end of 2010.

B. Update on Transportation Study Project

Ed Haberek noted that the Town of Stonington has sent a signed contract to DOT for the traffic study which is a follow up to a previous study. The next step will be for the RFP to be issued for a consulting engineering firm. It is hoped this can be accomplished in January of 2009.

C. Mystic Shuttle

Tricia Cunningham reported that a group met recently and put together an RFP, which will go out soon. This RFP response will provide information on what it would cost to run the shuttle so we can then determine how to fund this cost. The routes are the same as previous shuttles, and the timeframe for the service would be mid-May to mid/end of October.

D. Other

a. New Stonington SEAT Route

Ed Haberek reported that a new SEAT bus route for Stonington has been approved which will start in January. Once the schedule has been finalized, there will be a press release issued and an event to acknowledge the start of the service. There are 12-14 stops and it is the same route as the previous shuttle service, but not with the same level of frequency.

b. Stonington/Groton Budgets

Ed Haberek reported that tonight is the last of 3 budget forums that have been held prior to the upcoming budget process. He noted that if people have comments, but cannot attend, to please forward the comments to him.

Harry Watson reported that the Groton Town Council has already spent two Saturdays meeting on the upcoming budget as it is expected to be a challenging year.

c. 23 Library Street

Michael Murphy provided an update on the demolition of the burned house at 23 Library Street. He noted that the initial 60 day deadline has passed, and the Town is drafting the appropriate legal documentation to try and move this forward.

d. Seaport Energy Grant/New Seaport CEO

Bill Parent noted that the Seaport has received a technical assistance energy grant for evaluation of the roof of the Mill building. Mr. Parent also noted that the new CEO for the Seaport, Stephen White, will be starting on January 15, 2009. Doug Teeson will continue serving until that time.

e. Mystic Chamber Annual Dinner/Mystic Dollars

Tricia Cunningham reminded everyone that the Chamber's Annual Dinner will be held this Thursday, December 11th at the Mystic Marriott. She also noted that with the current economic challenges, Mystic Dollars are a wonderful alternative to gift cards.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Prepared by Barbara Strother
Economic Development Specialist
Town of Groton