

MYSTIC COOPERATIVE TASK GROUP
MEETING SUMMARY
JUNE 16, 2014
GREATER MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE
12 ROOSEVELT AVENUE, 2ND FLOOR, MYSTIC

I. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair Roper at 8:01 a.m.

Those in attendance were Peter Roper, Rita M. Schmidt, Kristin Clarke, Rick Norris (Town of Groton); Ed Haberek, Sara Lathrop (Town of Stonington); Jerry Olson (Olde Mystic Village); Bill Scheer (Mystic River Park); Tricia Walsh (Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce).

II. DISCUSSION OF MEETING SUMMARY OF APRIL 21, 2014 MEETING

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 21, 2014 meeting.

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

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Update on Mystic Streetscape Project – Phase II

A pre-paving meeting was held on April 18. As of this morning, all that is left to complete is the corner near New London Road, the curb near the Randall's Wharf office, the sidewalk near the triangle, and the Randall's Wharf driveway.

Walsh asked whether the lower lot at the Daniel Packer Inne is part of the project and Norris indicated that that property, which is owned by Todd Brady, is not part of the project.

Norris also explained that the area near the triangle, especially the corner opening has been narrowed and defined as part of the project. It will slow down vehicles travelling and 8 parking spots were gained. Lathrop commented that the redesign makes it safer as it's always been a blind spot.

Walsh brought up that the Chamber has a weekly column in the Mystic River Press and perhaps this would be a good subject for the column.

Norris brought up additional funding that could be used for a Phase III for a variety of areas, but a project would have to be put together and approved in order to move forward.

Lathrop asked whether wayfinding signage could be a part of the project and a discussion ensued about how to engage the non-profit sites and how to create a comprehensive program that would direct visitors to the smaller sites, perhaps the way Vermont handles signage.

B. Partner Outreach- Review draft letter

A draft letter is attached and would be sent out to potential new partners. Comments were made and it was agreed that letters would be sent out prior to the August meeting.

C. Work Plan and Brainstorming- continue conversation from April meeting

The brainstorming discussion focused on the mention in the Stonington Plan of Conservation & Development's inclusion of a water taxi for downtown mystic as a project, with the GMCC listed as coordinating partner. Walsh feels that this group would make more sense as the coordinating partner. Clarke will check and see what the Groton POCD update says about water taxis.

Habarek indicated that he wanted to have his new Public Works director discuss upcoming projects and progress at an upcoming meeting. Lathrop agreed to reach out to Senator Maynard to see whether he could come in August. It was agreed that he would be a great asset to the conversation and if Senator Maynard is unavailable, that an update from Stonington would be a good idea.

D. Update from Task Group members

Walsh discussed the Visit Connecticut Fan Favorite contest, which begins next week and is a 6 week social media driven contest where people vote for their favorite location in Connecticut. Last year, Mystic was 2nd behind Niantic.

Norris explained that he has been working with the Downtown Mystic Merchants recently to formalize a banner program for the street poles along West Main Street.

Habarek announced that Masonicare is coming to Mystic near McQuades. He also announced that Barbara McCrell is Stonington's new Public Works director and Scott Deletta is the new Town Engineer.

Roper announced that Mystic Bikes is up and running. They are in a maintenance phase and need more bikes and volunteers. He also mentioned that SEC-TV, which is located in the rear of Groton Shopping Plaza, is having an Open House on June 18. It is located between the Post Office and Benny's.

E. Other

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:06 a.m. was made by Habarek, seconded by Lathrop, so voted unanimously.