



Minutes

March 2nd 2022

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call ~ 5:34pm**
 - a. Commissioners: Jason Rusk (Chairman), Nishant Sahoo, Matthew Longino, & Margaret Hirsch
 - b. Staff: Cierra Patrick
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. January 5th 2022
 - b. February 2nd 2022
 - i. Motion to approve the minutes of January 5th and February 2nd 2022 minutes
 - ii. Motion: Jason Rusk
 - iii. Second: Nishant Sahoo
 - iv. Decision: 4-0-0
- IV. **New Business**
- V. **Old Business**
 - a. EDC Working Groups
 - i. Coastal Vulnerability ~ No Update
 1. No March Meeting
 - ii. Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment ~ No Update
 1. March 16th @ 3:30pm Building a Foundation for Safety Through Complete Streets Webinar
 - iii. Thames Street Planning ~ No Update
 1. March 30th @ 4:00 at City Hall
 - iv. Groton City Programming
 1. March 9th @ 4:00pm via Zoom
 - b. Staff Report:
 - i. Project Status Update
 1. Community Resiliency Plan
 - a. During the upcoming Community Workshop: Community Resilience Plan Part 3 (hosted in the City Hall Auditorium March 3rd @ 6:00pm) the community is invited to share ideas and provide feedback on resilience recommendation in the City of Groton. City Staff and



consultants will report on the Plans progress thus far and review initiatives and projects recommended and have open dialogue around four specific resilience concept projects.

i. Why Plan:

1. Worsening Climate Hazards:

- a. Rising Seas & Coastal Storm Surge
- b. Worsening Storms (wind and precipitation)
- c. More server high temperatures and droughts
- d. Other changes (acute and chronic)

2. Increasing Risk

- a. Infrastructure & utilities
- b. Natural systems & community resources
- c. Operations & services
- d. Economy & property values
- e. Public health, safety, and well-being

3. Resilience Approaches

- a. Flooding & Erosion
 - i. Protect structures
 - ii. Retrofits
 - iii. Retreat
 - iv. Nature-based Solutions
- b. Stormwater
 - i. Drainage improvement
 - ii. Green Infrastructure
 - iii. Reduce imperviousness
- c. Heat
 - i. Trees/ Vegetation
 - ii. Shading
 - iii. Reduce Imperviousness
 - iv. Cooling Centers, Splash Pads, etc.

4. Resilience Concept Projects

- a. Four specific concepts projects were identified. Projects are speared across the City and address different hazard. Projects also consider feasibility, co-benefits, and fundability

2. Visioning Thames Street



- a. The Final Placemaking Implementation Plan is focused on the Thames Street Corridor.
 - i. Short-term Goals for Thames Street Pedestrian Improvements include:
 1. Implement traffic-calming strategies:
 - a. Inventory of off-street parking
 - i. Number of legal parking space, locations, and types along Thames Street and side streets.
 - ii. Identify areas that need stripping
 - b. Signage recommendations
 - i. Inventory of speed limit and parking signage
 - ii. Identify needed replacements and gaps in signage (mapping)
 - iii. Identify locations for wayfinding signage to strengthen the corridor's identity.
 - iv. Draft signage concepts
 - c. Install signage recommendations updated signage
 2. Encourage façade renovations and historic preservation through the City's Minor Façade Improvement program.
 3. Create awareness about the City's cleaning and maintenance strategy for the corridor. Highlight City Ordinances & Department Responsibilities.
 4. Increase programming with local partners to encourage active use of the waterfront.
 - a. Pilot: Thames View Park Mini Concert Series (4th Saturdays May – August)
 5. Thames Street Planters
 - a. Incorporate plants from Pollinator Initiative
 6. Increase Public Art Interventions
 - a. Installation of artistic crosswalk and sidewalks at Thames View Park.
 - b. Draft sidewalk & crosswalk art & material specifications



- c. Daft concepts and equipment for cast iron light pole banners
- d. Identify locations for historic/ educational markers along the corridor.
- ii. Short Term Goals for Thames View Park
 - 1. Thames View Park Improvements Layout Phase 1
 - a. Identify potential locations for a performance space and electricity options.
 - b. Identify potential locations for bike racks.
 - c. Identify opportunities to increase seating options at the park, such as benches, moveable seating, chess tables, etc.
 - d. Identify landscaping with native species. Demarcate park boundaries with evergreen shrubs or green screens. (Public Works ~ Screening of water treatment plant)
 - e. Identify locations for cast iron fence
 - 2. Continue discussions and planning efforts with State Parks
 - a. Connection opportunities between upper Thames View Park and Fort Griswold State Park.
 - b. Public restroom opportunities and needed improvements
 - 3. Create a policy and application process for local partners interested in doing programming or events at Thames View Park.
 - a. Pilot: Schedule Music Artist, Food Trucks, & Crossing Guard for 4th Saturdays May-August
 - b. Increase promotion of events at Thames View Park.
 - 4. Host an onsite Community Design OR Community Resilience Workshop
- 3. Bridge Street Gateway Improvements & Complete Street Planning
 - a. Resolution 21-11-164
 - i. Acceptance of the ACTIVE Transportation award for in-kind services valued at \$42,500 to develop complete street plans



and implementation project at the intersection of I-95, Bridge Street, and North Street.

- ii. Builds upon the Welcome to the City Initiative to enhance City of Groton gateways; bike, pedestrian, and vehicular circulation; and promoting a positive image.

b. Task Include:

- i. Existing Plan & Policy Review
 - ii. Site Visit and On-Site Kickoff Meeting
 - iii. Public Complete Streets Education Workshop ~ April 14th 2022
 - iv. Small Area/ Complete Streets Plan Development
 - v. Demonstration Project Implementation
- ii. Economic Development Grant Program
 - iii. TIF ~ No Update
 - iv. Report on Projects in the City
 1. • Five Corners MUDD Application was denied • Next Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting is March 15th @ 6:30pm
 - v. Communications
 1. EDC Commissioner Term Update
 2. City of Groton Business Update Newsletter ~ Review of content

VI. Additions to Agenda

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Adjournment

Margaret Hirsch moved to adjourn
Matthew Longino seconded the motion
Meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

Submitted by: Cierra Patrick