



City of Groton

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Groton, Connecticut 06340
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION & TIF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 5th 2021

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Agenda:

- I. **Call to Order @ 5:33pm**
 - a) Present: Jason Rusk (Chairman), Annemarie Seifert, Nishant Sahoo, Margaret Hirsch, and Cheryl Auerbach
 - b) Liaison: Tina Daniels and Paul Norris
 - c) Staff: Cierra Patrick
- II. **Introduction**
- III. **Minutes Approval**
 - a) April 7, 2020 Minutes will be voted on during the June 2nd Regular meeting
- IV. **New Business**
- V. **Old Business**
 - a) EDC Working Groups
 - Coastal Vulnerability
 - Reminder to register for the Community Resiliency Building Workshops On June 8th & 9th from 4:00-7:00pm via zoom.
 - Commissioners asked if the Town of Groton is involved in the Community Resiliency Plan. Staff confirmed that the town manager and planning staff are actively involved in the project in addition to Groton public being invited to the Community Resiliency Building Workshop. The Chair informed the group that the Town of Groton budgeted for a coastal resiliency

project manager for Groton. The City has also been credited for its forward think planning for community resiliency.

- Staff informed the commission that NBC will be interviewing Planning & Economic Development staff for an investigative story on how municipalities are gearing up to address climate change and sea level rise.
 - Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment
 - The first street audit for May 19th was postponed due to weather.
 - Liaison informed the Commission of the first annual 5k Beer Run in either September or October 2021 as well as the upcoming Ragnar Race.
 - On May 20th there will be a Groton Bike and Pedestrian Summit gathering City, Town and local organization staff who are involved with ongoing initiatives and efforts. The summit is designed so staff can coordinate and collaborate on projects that are forming an inclusive bike and ped network.
 - Thames Street Planning
 - First meeting will be held May 26th via zoom
 - Commissioner reminded the group that the CT Main ST upcoming Vacant Properties webinar would be a great preparation for the upcoming meeting.
 - Thames Street Programming
 - First meeting will be held May 12th via zoom
- b) Staff Report:
- Project Status
 - Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment
 - Resiliency & Hazard Mitigation
 - Staff is working internally to prepare for the upcoming workshop by gathering data, discussing vulnerabilities, and getting staff, especially new department heads, up to speed with the project and objectives.
 - Strategic Communications
 - Staff enquired as to whether or not commissioners received the first digital newsletter published on April 26th. Commissioners confirmed receiving. A second issue will be published May 10th.
 - The newsletter is in the infancy stage and staff and consultant Miranda Creative are making tweaks to content and layout. Moving forward there will be newsletter sign-up forms on the City of Groton website and social media.
 - Staff voiced appreciation for the collaboration efforts of the City's Communication Team to develop content for the newsletter.

- Commission inquired about print option. Staff and consultant are assessing options. Ideas include, but are not limited to, print versions being placed at the City Clerk's Office, Groton Utilities Customers Service window, and public places like the Bill Memorial Library.
- Consultant is actively developing the City's Brand Standards and evaluate how to best incorporate Groton Utilities existing and regional brand standards.
- JLUS Parking Management Plan
 - The Southeastern CT Council of Government is the project lead on this two year effort. At this time there are no significant updates on the project as the consultant conducts their research and assessment phase.
- Visioning Thames Street
 - Staff presented the project concept at the April 26th Committee of the Whole. Staff requested a bid waiver to continue to work with Ninigret partners, who conducted the Thames Street Promenade report in 2019. Preservation CT awarded the City \$25,000 for consultant services to conduct the visioning work for Thames Street and approved a bid waiver on their end.
- Groton Riverwalk (Coast Guard Academy Capstone Project)
 - Cadets made their final presentation to Coast Guard Advisors on April 29th staff was blown away by the quality of the design renderings. Upon final grading and release from the Academy staff will share project documents.
 - Cadets rendering focused on the northern tip of Thames Street near the K.E. Streeter Boat Launch and 19 Thames Street. This project highlights the potential of the private public partnership in developing a public amenity.
- Projects in the City
 - The PZC approved Electric Boats 605 building. Public was concerned of construction noise but parties worked to find a happy medium.
 - PZC will be meeting May 18th with the Five Corners MUDD application on the agenda.

c) Communications

- Liaison posed the question, How can potential developers and investors give their input and participate in the planning process? Staff recommends, directing interested parties to the City of Groton website, hover over the "Engage" tab for a drop down menu, and select from

the ongoing projects. Commissioners added: for interested parties to participate in the Commission and/or working groups.

- In April Staff successfully completed a Basic Economic Development Course through the International Economic Development Council.
- Commissioners are invite to City Hall June 19th -21st for a Design of Change Conference that focuses on the intersection of design, people and public space. The PZC has also been invited.
- CT Economic Development Week is coming up, CT's Department of Economic and Community Development are hosting a series of events and staff encourages commissioners to check it out.

VI. Public Comments

VII. Adjournment

Jason Rusk moved to adjourn

Annemaire Seifert seconded the motion

The meeting was adjourned at 6:43 PM

Submitted by Cierra Patrick