



**City of Groton**  
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Groton, Connecticut 06340  
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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION & TIF ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020

5:30PM - 7:00PM

#### **Agenda:**

- I. Call to Order @ 5:36 pm**
- II. Roll Call**
  - a) Commissioners: Cheryl Auerbach, Annemarie Seifert, Margaret Hirsh, Jason Rusk, Vincent Antonelli, Paul Norris
  - b) Guest: Nishant Sahoo
  - c) Staff: Cierra Patrick
- III. New Business**
  - a) Elections
    - i. Cheryl Auerbach, motions to elect Jason Rusk as Chairman, Vincent Antonelli as Vice Chair, and Margaret Hirsh as Secretary of the Economic Development Commission.
    - ii. Annemarie Seifert Seconds the motions
    - iii. Decision: 6-0-0
  - b) Introduction of Nishant Sahoo
  - c) Economic Recovery
    - i. Staff provided update on City's economic development approach to addressing COVID-19;
      1. Providing local businesses with information on resources available through local networks, state and federal programs, and funding opportunities, such as the upcoming Thames River Innovation Place funding round.
      2. Highlighted services offered by Women's Business Development Council, CT Small Business Development Center, and SeCTer

- ii. On the City's Doing Business webpage there's a place for entrepreneurs to submit questions and be connected to local networks and resources.
- iii. Commission made commits to review link connections on the City's Business and Economic Development Commission webpage.
- iv. Discussed workforce development and Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board. Looking for appropriate ways a municipality can connect interested residents to training opportunities and local employment.
- v. Ask Commission to look into Naval and Maritime Consortium. The City of Groton has recently become a community partner.

#### **IV. Old Business**

- a) Strategic Marketing:
  - i. City of Groton went out to bid for a brand manager under the City of Groton Brand Development RFP. The EDC's role in the effort is community engagement and uncovering community stories.
  - ii. Staff requested the EDC to do a "Did you Know" series during meetings to uncover nuggets/elements about the City of Groton to share with the brand manager.
  - iii. Staff recommends inviting Jim Streeter to a meeting to discuss History of City of Groton's Business Community specifically Thames Street, Bridge Street, and Five Corners neighborhoods.
- b) Resiliency Planning:
  - i. Staff with assistance from the Coastal Resiliency Working Committee is selecting a consultant to devise a Coastal Resiliency Plan for the City of Groton. The EDC's role in this effort is Business Continuity engagement and building community awareness in Thames Street, Bridge Street, and Five Corners neighborhoods.
- c) Transportation Projects:
  - i. Staff will reconvene with Mayor and BL Companies to present their gateway study findings to council and the public; the associated workshop the EDC was planning for 2020 will be reevaluated and rescheduled for at a more ideal time.
  - ii. Staff will work with department heads to discover ways the coordinate projects, such as the multi-use path study, traffic and parking studies, safety, etc. through the use of tactical urbanism projects and other efforts. The EDC's role here will once aging be community engagement in the planning and design process.

Commission had an open discussion of local businesses, employment impacts on the economy, and real estate trends.

EDC meetings will continue virtual meetings until further guidance is given on public gatherings.

#### **V. Adjournment**

- a) Jason Rusk moved to adjourn
- b) Vincent Antonelli seconded the motion
- c) The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 PM

Submitted by Cierra Patrick