



Minutes
June 7th 2023

- I. **Call to Order & Roll Call ~ 5:35 pm**
 - a. Commissioners: Matthew Longino, Nishant Sahoo, Jason Rusk, Cameron James,
 - b. Liaisons: Aaron Brooks, GU
 - c. Staff: Cierra Patrick
 - d. Presenter/ Guest: Fallyn Fonville-Smith, Prospective commission member
- II. **Introductions**
- III. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Motion to approve minutes of May 3rd 2023
 - i. Motion made by Nishant Sahoo
 - ii. Seconded by Cameron James
 - iii. Decision: Approved 4-0-0
- IV. **Public Comments ~ 3 minutes per person: None**
- V. **New Business:**
 - a. Brew Run tabled till next meeting.
 - b. The EDC's Regular meeting scheduled for July 5th to be canceled. Approved 4-0-0
 - c. Staff will follow-up with an email to schedule a Special meeting sometime in July with Dan Bouges, Groton Utilities and Bruce Flax, MYSTIC Chamber to discuss the Brew Run. Strategizing not exactly taking action.
- VI. **Old Business:**
 - a. By-Laws Update:
 - i. Are we an advisory committee or commission?
 - ii. In addition to the By-laws update the City may need to redo the ordinance regarding membership numbers and the by-laws due to some conflicting language. Staff will schedule a meeting with Mayor Hendricks, Nishant and Jason prior to the August regular meeting. This meeting will clarify a direction forward and result in a draft By-laws update and/or ordinance to be shared at the August meeting.
 - b. Groton Utilities Update:
 - i. Current rates are 39% below regional benchmarks, one of the lowest in the state behind Wallingford.
 - c. Staff Report:
 - i. Economic Development Grant Programs
 1. 3 Active Grant Applications:
 - a. Buford's: Working on their sign, permit has been pulled.
 - b. CJs Laundromat: is awaiting final approval from Building & Zoning and the Planning office on a permit.



- c. Angelic Aesthetics: of the 3 identified improvements Angelic has completed the Business signage, and is still working on the windows and landscaping.
 2. Policy and Rule Changes has been moved to the August meeting
 - a. Commissioners are asked to review the existing policy and propose changes in preparation of the August meeting.
 - b. EDC goal to finalize changes by fall 2023 so the new policy could go into effect Jan 1, 2024
 - c. Possible changes include:
 - i. Boundaries from TIF District only to City Wide
 - ii. Facade on the public street to facade viewable from the street
 - iii. Define matching grant goals, 1 for 1 or something similar.
 - iv. Business soft cost: not 1 for 1, not a matching?
 - v. Business soft cost: are expenses from Ledge Light Health District eligible?
 - vi. Applicant's timeframe from start to finish?
- ii. Upcoming workshops:
 1. June 14th @ 6:00pm Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting on General Commercial Zone re-write.
 2. June 21st @ 6:30pm Planning & Zoning Commission Regular meeting, will include 120 West St. Public hearing.
 3. June 26th COW intro/reminder of the Bridge Street Gateway Concept Plans
 4. June 27th Bridge Street Gateway Community Workshops to review and provide comments on concept plans
- iii. Project Status Updates:
 1. Community Resilience:
 - a. Staff will be providing the City Council an update on June 12th during the Special COW for SLR consulting services for Resilience Capacity Building which involves a series of workshops to review recommendations from the 2022 Community Resilience Plan; brainstorm resilience projects to address vulnerabilities; and develop a resilience project portfolio to help when evaluating State, Federal, and philanthropic funding opportunities. The City of Groton has been awarded a CT DEEP Urban Green and Community Gardens grant to install rain gardens at the City Municipal Building.
 2. Bridge Street Gateway:



- a. Complete street concept plans are being reviewed and shared with the public for general feedback. A demonstration project, based on this feedback is planned late summer/ early fall 2023. Due to the accident on the Gold Star Bridge that has caused the Pedestrian path to be closed, staff is considering holding off on the proposed plans that leads to path since they are closed.
- b. Commissioners feel bike lane should remain in the concept plans and demo.
3. Greater Groton Community Engagement:
 - a. Make to registered to participate at [Register | Greater Groton](#)
- iv. TIF:
 1. A number of developers are inquiring about this tool. No plan or proposal has been received as of yet. Staff is coordinating with the Town to update TIF administration and associated agreements.
- v. Reports on City Projects:
 1. 120 West St, Colonel Ledyard School, folder on city website, public hearing is happening now.
 2. Placemaking Projects:
 - a. Thames St Planters coming out in the next few weeks
 - b. Bridge St banners are being replaced during summer 2023
- vi. Communications:
 1. Business newsletter went out. Please review information and share it with local businesses and entrepreneurs.

VII. Additions to Agenda:

- a. Outer Light's artwork on side of building is not an eligible project for the Minor Façade Improvement Grant. Artwork vs. Business Signage: the City's Zoning Regulations stipulate a percentage of the façade/ side of building that can have business signage/ promotional advertisement.

VIII. Public Comments:

- a. None

IX. Adjournment

Matthew Longino moved to adjourn meeting
Seconded by Nishant Sahoo
Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm

Submitted by: Matthew Longino and Cierra Patrick