



Wednesday, August 2, 2023 | 5:30 PM

Minutes

Chairman Nishant Sahoo, Secretary Matthew Longino, Commissioner Margaret Hirsch, Commissioner Jason Rusk, Commissioner Cameron James, Commissioner Fallyn Fonville-Smith, Councilor Paul Norris, Groton Utilities Business Development Manager Aaron Brooks, and Economic Development Manager Cierra Patrick

I. ROLL CALL ~ 5:34pm

- a. **Commissioners:** Nishant Sahoo (Chair), Matthew Longino, Cameron James, Fallyn Fonville-Smith, and Margaret Hirsch
- b. **Liaisons:** None
- c. **Staff:** Cierra Patrick
- d. **Presenters/ Guest:** Dan Bouges, Groton Utilities Communication Manager and Bruce Flax and Amy from The Greater Mystic Chambers

II. INTRODUCTIONS

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. Motion to approve the minutes of June 7th 2023 and July 19th 2023, made by Nishant Sahoo; Seconded by Matthew Longino.
- b. Decision: 5-0-0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS ~ 3 MINUTES PER PERSON: None

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Business Advertisement for the Groton Brew Run w/ Greater Mystic Chambers & Groton Utilities
 - i. Brew Run will be held on September 9th. Walk starts at 10:30; Run starts at 11:00 am; followed by a brew fest at Eastern Point Beach. 15 Brewery's have plans to attend; there will also be food trucks and live music.
 - ii. How can we drive foot traffic to local businesses?
 - 1. 2023 Goal is to Develop a handout for the runner bags that includes all CoG restaurants and places that sell the breweries represented at the event; and fun facts about the CoG .
 - a. Staff will develop a draft of the handout and coordinate printing
 - b. Matt L. will touch base with liquor stores to identify whether or not they carry any of the breweries products.



- c. Commissioners to research fun facts about the CoG
 2. 2024 Ideas: (will follow-up on these items in early 2024)
 - a. Use the Bludot resource to develop a directory of business in CoG
 - b. Invite business owners to have an informational or activity oriented booth at the Brew Run.
 - c. Develop a map highlight CoG businesses
 - d. Encourage the use of yard signs (advertisement) at the Brew Run and in front of businesses the day of the event.
 - b. Bridge Street Gateway Complete Street Open House on August 23rd from 6:00-8:00pm in Council Chambers. Demonstration is scheduled for September 24th – November 19th

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Groton Utilities Update : None
- b. Staff Report:
 - i. Economic Development Grant Program Applications:
 1. Buford's Family Restaurant's Minor Façade Improvement Application
 - a. The EDC approved this application during the July 19th Special meeting with contingences; the final sign inspection is scheduled for August 3rd, once approved this application will move to the August 28th COW for a council vote.
 2. CJ's Laundromat's Minor Façade Improvement Application. Work has been completed. Staff is awaiting some documentation from the applicant and a final inspection with Building and Zoning
 3. The discussion on changes to the grant programs policy and procedures changes will take place during the September & October meetings. Commissioners are asked to come prepared with suggested changes.
 - ii. Business Outreach Update from Commissioners
 1. Margaret met with Par 4 to work on a SeCTer Rise grant submission; a draft application was sent to Cierra to review; Cierra provided feedback and connected Par4 with SeCTer's grant administrator
 - a. Loureiro Engineering is hosting an Open House/ Breakfast on August 17th at 9:30am; the Mayor, Staff, and some Commissioners will be in attendance.
 - iii. Ribbon Cutting Celebration Follow-up



1. Fallyn & Cierra attended the Ribbon Cutting Celebrations. They noted the events were short, had local and state reps in attendance; and provided food/drinks/ and a promotion.
2. Ally on the Thames is interested in having a ribbon Cutting. Staff will coordinate one for September or October.

VII. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

- a. Develop a pitch to CoG leadership for a Groton City: History in the Making apparel sale.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Nishant Sahoo moved to adjourn meeting; Seconded by Matthew Longino.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:55pm

Submitted by Matthew Longino & Cierra Patrick