



Minutes  
September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021

**I. Call to Order at 5:36PM**

a. Roll Call

- Present: Jason Rusk (Chairman), Cheryl Auerbach, Margaret Hirsch, Annemarie Seifert, Paul Norris, Matthew Longino & Nishant Sahoo
- Liaison: Tina Daniels
- Staff: Cierra Patrick

**II. Introductions**

**III. Approval of Minutes**

**IV. New Business**

**V. Old Business**

a. EDC Working Groups

i. Coastal Vulnerability

- Workshop #2 for Community Resiliency went well
  - a. Potential Recommendations, for example
    - i. Plans for water treatment plant
    - ii. Roadways that flood – which to allow to flood and which to address
    - iii. Community education and outreach initiatives
    - iv. Work with residents to assist with Cooling of residences, and cooling centers
  - b. The recommendations are being reviewed with Groton City staff for further refinement and project identification
  - c. Workshop #3 to be held on October 7, 2021
  - d. DEEP hosting a Community Client Solutions session with New London and Groton to discuss initiatives – September 20, 2021
    - i. Follow-up meetings for further discussion to be held September 21, 2021 at Washington Park

ii. Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment

- Met on August 18, 2021 and talked about the ¼ mile radius exercise
- Attended the Washington Park Friday Concert to get input from community members
- Next meeting will be a street audit conducted by committee to be followed by one engaging residents



- a. Looking to get some help with City of Groton departments to assess current roadways and intersections can be leveraged for developing routes
- Talked about developing a way to engage walkers to take surveys about waypoints in the city
- AARP Age Friendly Community Designation – spoke to folks about the opportunity to get funding/grants from AARP for walking and cycling programs. Will look at completing the application for the designation with Groton City Staff
  - a. Originated from the Groton Senior Center reaching out to the Town of Groton to enquire about the possibility
- There is a new eBike company in Groton (Pedigo). Offered to the committee to borrow bikes to ride through some of the routes already identified in the southern part of the city
- iii. Thames Street Planning
  - On September 21, 2021 there will be an outdoor workshop to discuss what information has been collected to date, as well as get the City historian to talk about the history of Thames Street
  - Will try to communicate to all business' on Thames Street about the event
  - A follow-up event will be held on October 22, 2021 at Thames View Park
  - Ninigret Partners is looking to do an Activation at the park (taking the park and using it in a way that creates a different type of environment than just a park – what are the potential activities that could be held at the park)
- iv. Groton City Programming
  - The discussion at the last meeting focused on developing art spaces in the City, including Art Pads where revolving displays could be available.
  - Also talked about other sites in the city to display art, murals, etc.
  - Look at opportunities to engage with tours on Thames Street and the Thames River to gather ideas to create programming
  - Continue to identify events taking place in nearby towns to attend and use to develop ideas
  - There is a display in the foyer of City Hall to elicit input on locations for art programs
- b. Staff Report:
  - i. Project Status Update



- Strategic Communications
  - a. Internal staff organizing for preparation and distribution of communications
  - b. Next photo shoot being planned
  - c. Planning for delivering brand standards
- Visioning Thames Street
  - a. Workshop on October 22<sup>nd</sup> being planned, will be first of three
  - b. Next workshop will be in December, followed by one in February
- JLUS Parking Management Plan
  - a. Awaiting documentation from the consultant, after being given feedback
- ii. Economic Development Grant Program
  - Cierra Patrick presented recommendation to move forward with the Auto Protective Coating company
    - a. Cierra Patrick will get together with owners of the business to understand what they had to go through to establish the business
    - b. Discussions to see how to expand the funding of the grants occurring
- iii. Tax Increment Financing District
  - Nothing to report
- iv. Report on Projects in the City
  - Thayer Mahan is moving forward with plans to develop Groton Heights School as their Headquarters and Development Center
- v. Communications
  - The Community Client Solutions workshops will be held September 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Upcoming Events:
    - a. Farmers Market – Every Tuesday, 3:00-6:00 PM @ Washington Park
    - b. 240<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Groton Heights – September 4-5
    - c. CTNext SBIR/STTR Workshop Seminar – September 8-9
    - d. Groton City Brew Run – September 13
    - e. National Small Business Week Virtual Summit – September 13-15
    - f. Planning & Zoning Commission – September 21
    - g. The Resilience Room – Emotional Wellness Support for Creative Industry – September 24



- VI. Additions to Agenda**
- VII. Public Comments**
- VIII. Adjournment**

Nishant Sahoo moved to adjourn  
Matthew Longino seconded the motion  
Meeting adjourned at 6:37PM

Submitted by: Margaret Hirsch & Cierra Patrick

