



Minutes
September 7, 2022

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call**
 - a. Meeting called to order at 5:35pm
 - b. EDC Commissioners: Jason Rusk, Margaret Hirsch, Annemarie Seifert, Matthew Longino, Nishant Sahoo
 - c. Staff: Cierra Patrick
- II. Introductions**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. August 3rd 2022
 - i. Motion: Jason Rusk
 - ii. Second: Margaret Hirsch
 - iii. Decision: 3-0-1
 - For: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Nishant Sahoo & Margaret Hirsch
 - Against: None
 - Abstained: Annemarie Seifert
- IV. New Business**
- V. Old Business**
 - a. Blutdot Business Outreach Platform
 - i. The Blutdot platform was blocked from server access. The IT Department has granted access permission.
 - ii. Staff has been doing business outreach and will be updating the system.
 - b. Staff Report:
 - i. Project Status Update
 1. Community Resiliency Platform
 - a. Plan is being edited and will be released soon. Hard copies will be printed and shared with the Southeastern Council of Governments and Groton Public Library's for public use.
 - b. Staff has been finalizing grant administration for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation award.
 - c. Next Steps include development of a resilience project list (building from the four concept projects referenced in the plan); Identifying funding sources; writing project proposals.



- d. Staff noted there are numerous federal and state funding programs supporting infrastructure and climate change projects the City could potential utilize.
2. Visioning Thames Street
 - a. Internal meetings are being held to discuss next steps
 - i. The sidewalk chalk art at Thames View Park will move forward in the Spring of 2023. This project will involve partnership with Southeastern Coalition to identify artists to work with the City to develop a design
 3. Bridge Street Gateway Improvements & Complete Streets Concept Planning
 - a. Project is postponed to Spring 2023
 - b. Poquonnock Road and Mitchell Street projects created additional traffic at the Bridge Street intersection, so a request to delay work to 2023 was made
 - i. This will give the planners time to refine possible projects
 - ii. Will also allow pilot projects to be executed with partners to verify the direction
 - ii. Economic Development Grant Program
 1. Cierra Patrick has contacted several local businesses to discuss opportunities for minor façade improvement projects
 - a. Businesses are working on getting estimates for work for improvements and enhancements to their buildings
 - i. One possible improvement led to a discussion about the indicated use of the grants – improvements vs maintenance to the building. This will be discussed further within the EDC subcommittee.
 - b. Businesses on Bridge Street also asked about who is responsible for maintenance of the landscaping along Bridge Street – Parks and Recreation, Pfizer’s Green Team, or business owners could be responsible.
 - iii. Communications
 1. The Brew Run is Saturday, September 10th. There will be many breweries and food trucks at the event.
 2. There are a few vacancies on the EDC, so commissioners were asked to identify potential candidates.



3. Cierra shared an NFC card that can be used to provide links to folks to items like Business Update Newsletter or the City Websites, etc.

VI. Additions to Agenda

- a. There will be some Commissioners moving on from the Commission in the coming year, so a clarification of the process for electing the next slate of officers. It will be added to the agenda next month.
 - i. Send nominations to Cierra Patrick for consideration
 - ii. Create a summary of the EDC Commissioner role to use to recruit new commissioners.

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Adjournment

Moved: Matthew Longino

Seconded: Annemarie Seifert

- a. Decision: For: Matthew Longino, Jason Rusk, Nishant Sahoo, Annemarie Seifert;
Against: None; Abstained: None

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM

Submitted by: Margaret G Hirsch