



## City of Groton

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION & TIF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## MINUTES

November 4, 2020

5:30PM - 7:00PM

### Agenda:

- I. **Meeting Call to Order @ 5:38pm**
  - a) Present: Jason Rusk (Chairman) Cheryl Auerbach, Annemarie Seifert, Margaret Hirsch, Paul Norris, & Nishant Sahoo
  - b) Liaison: Tina Daniels
  - c) Staff: Cierra Patrick & Leslie Creane
- II. **Introduction**
  - a) City Planner, Leslie Creane, provided background of her experience and initial priorities in the City. Upon developing a better understand of community and leadership desires Mrs. Creane will utilize her professional judgement and knowledge in the science of urban planning to address low hanging fruits and challenge different perspectives when needed to meet desires and goals.
- III. **Minutes Approval**
  - a) September 2, 2020  
Motion to accept the minutes of September 2, 2020  
Motion: Jason R.  
Second: Margaret H.  
Decision: 6- 0-0
- IV. **New Business**
  - a) **Reinstate Sub-Committees as the following Working Groups**

- The Economic Development Specialist discussed reinstating working groups to assist with moving planning and economic development projects/efforts forward as well as corralling community engagement.
- Working groups are expected to include representatives from the EDC as well as members from City of Groton departments, other City of Groton commissions, and community stakeholders.
- Each working group will aim to complete their staff designated tasks, coordinate with the Thames Center Programming Working Group to plan community engagements for Summer- Fall 2021 and participate in said community engagements.
- Over the holiday season staff will host initial meetings for each working group to provide project update and an overview of task.
- The EDC commissioners serve as working group liaisons and provides status and activity reports during the EDC's monthly meetings.
- Working Group Objectives:
  - Coastal Vulnerability: Will help guide the formation of the Community Resiliency Plan being formed in partnership with City staff and Malone and Macbroom. The working group will assist in assessing community vulnerabilities, identifying priority projects, and develop strategies for the City of Groton to begin addressing identified vulnerabilities. Project is anticipated to wrap up in June 2021.
  - Thames Center Planning: Focuses on the streetscape and underutilized land along Thames Street between Broad St. and Baker Ave. In partnership with City staff, CT Main Streets, and Preservation CT the group will conduct an area reconnaissance including assessment of land use zoning, creative placemaking, historical preservation, parking and the potential for development related to industry space demand/ trends.
  - Thames Street Programming: will partner with staff to coordination and implementation of a series of online and outdoor pop-up engagements from Spring–Fall 2021. This working group will collaborate with all working groups to plan and schedule community engagements.
  - Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment: In partnership with City staff the working group will assist in conducting an initial assessment/ mapping exercise of each segment of the staff identified priority area. In addition the group will assess potential for wayfinding signage and tactical urbanism projects.
- Commissioners support the creation of working groups and began deliberating on who will participate in each group as follows:
  - Coastal Vulnerability- Paul
  - Thames Center Planning- Jason & Cheryl
  - Thames Center Programming- Tina & Nishant
  - Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment- Nishant & Tina

- Commissioners not noted will assess each working group task and work with Cierra to identify their best fit.
- In addition, commission members mentioned a number of potential projects. Staff agreed to work with each working group to identify future projects/ efforts.

**V. Old Business**

a) Staff Report

- Economic Development Specialist noted that all projects/ efforts are moving forward despite unforeseen delays related to COVID-19 and associated pivots. Staff continues to coordinate internal and external partners.
- The Complete Streets: Functionality and Tactical Urbanism project staff was hoping to move forward will be tabled for a later date allowing more time to coordinate with departments and existing road work. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Network Assessment and community outreach will help guide this project.
- On October 21<sup>st</sup> the Town of Groton and the preferred developer for the Colonel Ledger School presented concept drawing for a multi-family housing development. The developer has voiced interest to collaborate with the City on site design as well as the potential for a public off-road multi-use path serving pedestrian and bicyclist.

**VI. Adjournment**

Cheryl A. moved to adjourn

Annemaire S seconded the motion

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM

Submitted by Cierra Patrick