



City of Groton
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Groton, Connecticut 06340
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION & TIF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 13, 2019

5:30PM - 7:00PM

Agenda:

❖ Call to Order

- Meeting commenced at 5:35pm
- Attendance:
 - Commissioners: Cheryl Auerbach (Chairman), Annemarie Seifert, Margret Hirsch, Jason Rusk
- Guest: Keith Hedrick-Mayor and Paul Norris-Groton Resident

❖ Introduction

❖ Minutes Approval

- October 2, 2019
 - Motion to accept the minutes of October 2, 2019
 - Motion: Margret Hirsch
 - Second: Jason Rusk
 - Decision: 4-0-0

❖ New Business

- EDC's Approach to Unify Economic Interest- Overview and Status Update
 - Staff provided an overview of City goals moving into 2020 and community engagement.
- Engage: 2020 Public Participation
 - The EDC desires to facilitate open forums when appropriate to promote public awareness and feedback on proposed plans. Staff

mentioned that public input is most effective when City Department heads prepare/review some amount of a proposal beforehand.

- Process: Studies conducted/proposal developed, by City of Groton Staff and contracted consultants, take best practices and unique City needs into consideration to create preliminary concepts. The preliminary concepts are then be used to engage the public to review recommendations and provide feedback. Substantive input will be used to guide/redirect final proposals.
- EDC could solicit outside funding to support public events/ community engagement.

❖ **Old Business**

○ Staff Report:

- TIF: Staff will distribute “TIF 101” presentation files to newer Commissioners
- Website: Staff now has the ability to edit EDC webpage and facilitate updates
- Public Outreach: Staff will prepare possible 2020 events for discussion during Jan. meeting.
- Welcome to the City: BL Companies provided preliminary concept drawings for gateways at the interchange of Clearance b. Sharpe (Route 3400/ Meridian and I-95/ Bridge Street. The EDC is interested in seeing more from the studies and options for proposed changes. Staff will coordinate.
- EDC Priorities: Discussed prioritization of energy and focus for 2020. Desire to accomplish low hanging fruit of Economic Development Strategy. Commissioners where asked to consider 2020 goals and priorities to discuss at next meeting.

❖ **Public Comments**

- Discussion of Thames River Statue concept. The Mayor informed of how the Southeastern Cultural Coalition approached both the City of Groton and City of New London mayors to propose a public art design concept that includes statues placed on opposing side of the Thames. The aim of the project is to create interest and pride in the area while serving as an attraction. No formal proposal has been created, only preliminary discussions. Information regarding the statue has been misperceived as a formal proposal. Mixed public responses via social media channels have been received. The responses reinforce the need for clear, intentional, and proactive communication.

❖ **Adjournment**

Annemarie Seifert moved to adjourn
Margret Hirsch seconded the motion
The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Submitted by Cierra Patrick and Jason Rusk

Next Meeting is scheduled for December 4th 2019 @ 5:30pm