



**Minutes**  
**January 5<sup>th</sup> 2022**

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call ~ 5:36pm**
  - a. Commissioners: Jason Rusk (Chairman), Cheryl Auerbach, Nishant Sahoo, & Margaret Hirsch
  - b. Liaison: Paul Norris
  - c. Staff: Cierra Patrick
  - d. Presenter/ Guest: City Resident ~ Tristen interested in learning more about the commission
- II. Introductions**
- III. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. December 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
    - Motion to accept the minutes of December 1<sup>st</sup> 2021
    - Motion: Cheryl Auerbach
    - Second: Margaret Hirsch
    - Decision: 3-0-1: For- Jason Rusk (Chairman), Cheryl Auerbach, & Margaret Hirsch; Against- None; Abstained- Nishant Sahoo
- IV. New Business**
- V. Old Business**
  - a. EDC Working Groups 2022 Schedule w/ Draft Community Engagement Schedule
    - Coastal Vulnerability
      - TBD
    - Pedestrian & Bicycle Network Assessment ~ 2022 focus is assessing opportunities to make the City of Groton more walkable, bike able, and well connected. Further the assessment of how businesses and residences connect to community assets.
      - February 16th
      - March 16th
      - May 18th
      - July 20th
      - September 21st
    - Thames Street Planning ~ 2022 focus is the roll out of Visioning Thames Street Placemaking Plans short term goals
      - March 30th
      - April 20th
      - May 25th
      - August 24th



- September 28th
  - Groton City Programming ~ 2022 focus is a Public Art Initiative with Southeastern Cultural Coalition and Coordination assistance with Planning Thames View Pop-Up Parties.
    - January 12th
    - March 9th
    - May 11th
    - July 13th
  - Community Engagements
    - Community Design Workshop ~ January 31st , August 29th, October 31st from 6:00-7:30pm
    - Community Resiliency Plan ~ February 17th or 24th (In-person) Review of Climate Risk Assessment and four sample resilience concept projects
    - Visioning Thames Street ~ January 13th and February 10th
    - Thames View Pop-up Parties ~ 4th Saturdays From May-August
    - Concerts in the Park Display ~ TBD
    - Famers Markets Display ~ TBD
    - Groton Brew Run Display ~ September 10th
    - City Day ~ August 5th
  - Commissioners Nishant Sahoo, & Margaret Hirsch suggest to set of Facebook events for all community workshops and events that way people can register ahead of time and receive reminders.
  - Resident Tristen noted that the City should utilize it's Instagram account more to advertise events.
  - Staff noted that in 2021 the Economic Development Commission and Staff have completed 27 community engagements.
- b. Staff Report:
- Project Status Update
    - Community Resiliency Plan ~ The City Risk Assessment has been completed is and is under staff review. Working on 4 sample resilience concept designs
    - Visioning Thames Street ~ Staff is working internally with Departments on Short-terms Placemaking goals and actions needed.
  - Economic Development Grant Program ~ Staff is working on a program rewrite. Programs under consideration include: Business Soft cost, Minor Façade Improvement, & Business Continuity program with SeCTer
  - TIF ~ No Updates
  - Report on Projects in the City



- Mixed Use Design District Master Plan for Five Corners is before the Planning & Zoning Commission
- January 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30pm Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting
- Communications
  - Staff encouraged commissioners to sign-up for and promote City of Groton Business Update Newsletter
  - The Town of Groton Published the 2021 Doing Business in Groton Resource Guide The Groton Explore More Newsletter provides a local and regional update on economic development activity
  - Planning & Economic Development staff are encouraging private property owners to schedule a meeting to discuss any plans
  - SeCTer is chosen as a finalist for the EDA's Build Back Better Challenge, they will be looking to develop an Off-shore Wind Coalition and support for building an industry cluster in the region.
  - CT paid Leave program has begun. There are a number of informational webinars on January 18<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00am
  - 2002 Impact Accelerator Funding Opportunity for medium –small sized businesses
  - WBDC Child Care Initiative

**VI. Additions to Agenda**

- a. Economic Development Commission 2022 Meetings
  - Jason Rusk moves to maintain the currently scheduled of the commission meeting the first Wendsays of each month from 5:30-7:00pm
  - Cheryl Auerbach seconds
  - Decision: 4-0-0
  - Staff will follow-up with City Clerk on what CT Statues the Economic Development Commission roles and responsibilities as an advisory committee.
- b. Commissioners Terms ~ Staff asked commissioners with terms expiring this year to inform staff as to whether or not they would like to serves another term.

**VII. Public Comments**

**VIII. Adjournment**

Jason Rusk moved to adjourn  
Margaret Hirsch seconded the motion  
Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM

Submitted by: Cierra Patrick