



City of Groton
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Minutes
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Nov 4, 2015
5:30 PM
City of Groton Council Chambers

1. Call to Order @ 5:32 PM

Regular Members Present: – J. Hodge, K. Alves, F. Gillern, K. Capano, and T. Drejer

Alt Members Present: – K. Hedrick

Liaison Present: – S. Bailey

Absent: – J. Jones, T. Daniels, S. Froshauer, J. Walsh

Staff: B. Goodrich

Ex Officio: None

2. Introductions and Public Comment – None

3. Minutes:

A. October 7, 2015 , Motion to approve, F.Gillern, Second T. Drejer, Approved

4. Additions to the Agenda -- None

5. New Business

A. Meeting/discussion with Glenn Chalder of Planimetrics on revisions to the zoning regulations. This is and will be an ongoing process. Some of the language of the draft regulations is confusing and at times we can't tell if they are leading us in the right direction. Glen reminded us that the P.O.C.D is the baseline for all that they are attempting but that sometimes the old language of the current standards get in the way and the folks who are deeply involved in this process welcome an outside look at where they are. They welcome feedback particularly from the CEDC. We talked about an old topic of making Thames Street one way. We reviewed the emotions and feedback generated the last time this was proposed and realized that while for sure there are some legitimate concerns, there are also a lot of potential benefits. The question is how to explore both options and perhaps find a way to 'try it' on a temporary basis. Glen reported that some communities have been able to pick a period and try things while collecting data and getting feedback.

Commission members encouraged to provide comments and suggested edits to the regulations which would then be presented to the PZC for their consideration.

B. Report of Subcommittees

a. Economic Development Subcommittee – The potential survey was further modified and sent around for review. Commission members should provide comments by next meeting.

- b. Infrastructure Subcommittee – Pre-application for the Main Street Preservation of Place Grant is in but it's unlikely to be approved for a number of reasons. We continue to work with various outside schools on getting some free help. Perhaps going back to Yale since they have done a lot of the Heritage Park work and this might dovetail with that.
- c. Promotions Subcommittee: No report.
- d. Pulling together a list of potential developers and drafting an invitation for them to attend a future meeting along with other boards and commissions. May coordinate this with the Town of Groton. This continues.
- e. Administrative: Marketing Budget: The City of Groton Budget cycle begins in January and the CEDC should submit a budget by subcommittee by the end of January. J. Hodge to meet with B. Goodrich for guidance on the budget and will have a draft by the December meeting.

C. Review of Draft Business Development Guides- progress continues on these documents.

6. Old Business

- A. Continued review and discussion of the recommendations in the "Report of the Community and Economic Development Committee".

Action Items Identified:

- Draft RFP for Planning, Architecture or Landscape Architecture Class to provide a concept plan for a portion of Thames Street (or 5 Corners) as a Studio Class Project. Ongoing
- Provide a list/Contact potential successful developers and invite them to speak at a panel discussion – invite other boards and commissions. On going
- Provide feedback on Development Guide, Survey, and Zoning regulations. On going
- Look into the possibility of creating PowerPoint How-to Webinars for residents and potential developers.
- Review with IT the likely needs to bring more and more documents on line.

7. Adjourn Motion (K. Alves Second (F. Gillern) 7:05 PM

Next meeting will be held on December 2, 2015 at 5:30pm