



City of Groton
295 Meridian St.
Groton, Connecticut 06340
860.446.4103

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 9, 2018
5:30PM - 7:00PM

Agenda:

❖ Call to Order

- Present: Cheryl Auerbach (Chairman), Annemarie Seifert, Tom Drejer, Shelby Carlson
- Liaisons: Tina Daniels and Jamal Beckford
- Staff: B. Goodrich and Cierra Patrick

❖ Call to order, Introduction and Public Comment

- Chairman Auerbach called the meeting to order at 5:37PM.
- Introduction of new Economic Development Specialist, Cierra Patrick.

❖ Minutes Approval

- April 4, 2018 Minutes
 - Motion to accept the minutes of April 4, 2018
 - Motion: Shelby Carlson
 - Second: Cheryl Auerbach
 - Decision: Approved 2-0-2 (abstaining Drejer, Seifert)
- April 12, 2018 Minutes of Special Meeting
 - Motion to accept the minutes of April 12, 2018
 - Motion: Cheryl Auerbach
 - Second: Tina Daniels
 - Decision: Approved 2-0-2 (abstaining Drejer, Seifert)

❖ Additions to Agenda

- Brief discussion about Highway signage that will change from Clarence B. Sharp to City of Groton. Commission will like to know the new design and language of the sign.
- Discussed direction of B. Goodrich planning position and hiring process
- ❖ **New Business**
 - Update on EDC Specialist
 - Cierra Patrick will be point on contact for TIF
 - Work on linking City of Groton and Town of Groton websites
 - Look at other EDC websites format
 - Possible use of fillable PDF forms: work with IT Department
 - New business welcome: Brow spa and tattoo shop

Tom Drejer and Jamal Beckford left the meeting.

There being no quorum the regular EDC meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

General informal discussion continued as noted below.

NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

- ❖ Discussed reconfiguring the agenda format.
 - Changing or eliminating subcommittee structure due to size of Commission
 - Wants to include:
 - Website updates
 - Communications
- ❖ TIF Update:
 - Staff gave an update on TIF.
 - Handouts were provided of TIF overview and basic information as well as maps of potential TIF boundaries along Thames Street and Five Corners.
- ❖ Cierra Patrick asked:
 - What is the direction/ focus of the EDC?
 - Addressing property owners and encouraging them to invest
 - Building relationships with businesses
- ❖ Discussion of role of EDC in matters facilitated by Building and Zoning Department
 - Points of accountability
 - Building codes
 - Parking
 - Blight
- ❖ EDC members expressed concern of the appearance of the City's gateway entrance as it continues to look and function in a way that violates building and zoning regulations despite efforts by the City to have it addressed.

Submitted by Barbara Goodrich and Cierra Patrick