

TOWN COUNCIL

WEEKLY STATUS REPORT

May 24, 2018

gib Volume 26, No.20

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Tuesday, May 29th is the fifth Tuesday of the month and there will not be a Town Council meeting. Enjoy your evening off.

TOWN OFFICES CLOSED

Please be advised that all Groton Town offices will be closed in observance of the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 28th. Please enjoy the upcoming holiday with your friends and family.

TAX SALE

The Town of Groton Tax Division will conduct a Tax Sale of tax delinquent properties on Wednesday, June 20th beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex. The last tax sale was in April 1999. The primary purpose of tax sales is to enforce collection of taxes. Using a tax sale for the collection of delinquent real estate provides a cost savings to the Town by reducing the Town attorney fees. All out of pocket costs associated with a tax sale will be recovered through the sale process with some exceptions. If the Town receives no bids or removes a property from the tax sale, then the Town will need to pay those costs to the attorney.

In May 2017, the Tax Collector's office selected 272 properties for inclusion in the sale in an effort to collect \$1,658,000. As required each delinquent account was sent a demand letter to the property owners scheduled for sale advising them of the pending enforcement. As of mid-May 204 accounts have been resolved either by paying in full or setting up payment plans. To date, the Tax Division has collected over \$409,000 in delinquent taxes. In November 2017 seventy-three accounts were referred to the Town Attorney for a tax sale. The sale list currently has 14 accounts remaining and can be viewed on the Town's website.

AVERY-COPP HOUSE

The latest addition to the Library's museum pass collection is passes providing free admission for two adults to the Avery-Copp House. The house, built in

Groton circa 1800, passed through generations of the same family. The museum is located on three acres of terraced grounds overlooking the Thames River. For a listing of all our passes, visit groton-ct.gov/library/museum.asp. Museum passes for the Groton Public Library are provided by a generous donation from the Circle of Friends.

COP ON TOP UPDATE

The Cop on Top event was a success once again this year raising \$2,854 in cash. This total does not include the additional money made by selling t-shirts, Connecticut Sun tickets and Connecticut Tigers' tickets. Over half of the cash raised was collected during the "Coin Drop" event at the Route 12/Crystal Lake Road intersection. The proceeds from this annual fundraiser were donated to Special Olympics to assist with the costs of their event.

OFFICER AT THE LIBRARY

Community Policing Officer Richard Savino is now based at the Groton Public Library on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and on Thursdays from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. During these times, he will be available for car seat installations, and to anyone who would like to express any issues or minor complaints, or to have a friendly chat and interaction. The office is in Teenscape, the young adult area of the Library.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Attachment 1 is a Quarterly Analytics Report from the Golden Shovel Agency for the Groton Economic Development website, www.exploremoregroton.com/groton.
2. Attachment 2 is an email update from the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for the Joint Land Use Study Implementation Grant application.

MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORT

Office of Planning and Development (April)

- Staff hosted a well-attended public meeting for the Poquonnock Bridge Village Design Guidelines at the Groton Public Library.
- Staff met with an owner and site manager of the Groton Shoppers Mart to review the benefits of Tax Increment Financing on a potential re-development project for the property.

- Staff attended a Joint Land Use Study Implementation Committee meeting.
- The Zoning Commission has developed new standards for accessory apartments and home occupations that are easier to follow.
- Economic and Community Development staff worked with Focus Media Group on an article to run in “Business in Focus”.
- Economic and Community Development staff received notification that the Governor’s Office selected one Groton census tract (8702) recommending it for federal designation as an “Opportunity Zone” as per Groton’s request.
- Economic and Community Development staff attended a meeting with the State reaffirming that the State will not be funding the Enterprise Zone program tax reimbursement of 40% credit back to municipalities.

Attachments

JB/lh

