

MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
JULY 16, 2009  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TOWN HALL ANNEX  
12:00 P.M. - COMMUNITY ROOM 3

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Peter Pappas, Lian Obrey, Bruce Fafard and George Mathanool  
Staff: Barbara Strother  
Other: Barbara Goodrich, City of Groton Planner

Staff reported that Susan Dowling had contacted her to note that she would be on vacation the date of today's EDC meeting. In Susan Dowling's absence, Lian Obrey will be Acting Secretary.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 18, 2009

MOTION: To approve the June 18, 2009 minutes as written.

Motion made by Pappas, seconded by Obrey, so voted unanimously.

III. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

1. Overview of Thames Street and Bridge Street Projects – Barbara Goodrich, City Planner, City of Groton

Barbara Goodrich provided an extensive overview of the history of Thames Street, previous studies that have been undertaken, and details regarding the proposed Thames Street Rehabilitation project. The \$10,725,000 project would include clearing and excavation; reconstruction of existing pavement and base materials; installation or reconstruction of curbing, sidewalks, guardrails, handicap ramps, and crosswalks; rebuilding, construction of, and repairs to retaining walls; reconstruction of storm drainage systems; relocation or reconstruction of other necessary utilities; traffic signal upgrades; installation of decorative street lighting and other streetscape improvements; and landscaping and related improvements.

The Town Council held a public hearing on July 7, 2009. The next step would be for the Council to adopt an ordinance appropriating the funding for the project and authorizing the issuance of bonds and notes. If approved by the Council, the ordinance would then be referred to the RTM for final action, prior to the item appearing on the November ballot.

Goodrich also provided information on a streetscape improvement project for Bridge Street from the intersection of North Street to Thames Street. The improvements will include new sidewalks, curbing, lighting and landscaping. Preliminary design has been completed, and the project is slated for construction with funding from the Federal

Stimulus program. Estimates for the work are \$1.15 million dollars. Public information sessions for the project will be held in the near future.

Staff provided some general information to the Commission regarding guidelines for supporting referendum items.

2. Mystic Streetscape Update - Staff provided a brief update on the project.

3. Zoning Regulation Review and Update – No Report.

3. Review of Strategic Plan Implementation/EDC 2009 Work Program

Staff asked the Commission if they would like a facilitator for the September Commission Strategic Planning session. The Commission did not feel that it is necessary to have a facilitator. Staff will provide information to the Commission regarding past strategic planning efforts.

4. Staff/Commission Member Reports

Training September 30, 2009 Groton – Staff noted she had sent out information regarding the upcoming Community Builders Training session that will be hosted in Groton on September 30, 2009 and encouraged members to save the date.

Staff reminded the Commission of the Airport Advisory Committee July 21, 2009 at 7 p.m., which will include a tour at 6 p.m. Due to security reasons, reservations will need to be made in advance for the tour.

Staff noted that at the last meeting, Lian Obrey mentioned that she believed a tenant had been identified for the Kingsbridge Square building. Staff contacted the realtor but unfortunately the space has not yet been leased.

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

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Lian Obrey, Acting Secretary  
Economic Development Commission

Prepared by Barbara Strother  
Economic Development Specialist