

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

December 2016

The following summarizes economic development division activities for December 2016.

Economic Development Activities:

- Airport Development Zone (ADZ): Staff is still awaiting DECD approval. Staff learned DECD changed economic model evaluation software in November.
- Great Blue Research Survey: Staff scheduled the next presentation on January 11th with the RTM. Hard copy reports were already provided to the RTM on November 9th.
- Public Property Redevelopment (517/529 Gold Star Highway): Discussions with development teams are ongoing.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Mystic Oral School): Staff continues to prepare final agreements with DECD and is planning to address with the COW on January 10th. Continuing to field responses to inquiries.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Groton Heights): Development of project sheet and discussion with interested developers.
- Marketing/Website: Staff issued the developed RFP for a new dedicated economic development website. Proposals are due in January.
- CT Next – Innovation Places: Groton has been working with SPARK, CURE, New London and City of Groton on a Thames River Innovation Project (TRIP) effort. The consulting team was present and working with the group from December 1st – 7th. Emphasis and tours on Groton occurred on December 2nd and 6th. Next steps are to develop projects leading up to the implementation grant round.
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): Staff has been working with Camoin to initiate a TIF program for Groton. Two key projects request TIF in Groton in order to construct their projects.
- Incentives: Staff finalized the “Business Incentives and Assistance” brochure. It will be used to outline existing state and local programs for the business community.
- Community Wayfinding Signage: Staff issued the RFP for the development of a community wayfinding sign plan. Proposals are due in January.
- Economic Assistance Fund: Staff finalized the draft program guidelines after meet with the EDC Economic Assistance Fund Task Force. The Task Force was generally supportive of the proposed changes. The full EDC is being asked to comment at the January 5th meeting prior to seeking Town Council approval.
- “Growing in Groton: A Resource Guide”: A draft resource guide to assist new Groton business interests has been developed. Staff is conducting a final review of the document prior to production.

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- LEAN Process Improvements: OPDS staff continues to participate in ongoing process improvement for the department focused on streamlining procedure and efficiency. This effort will continue for the next several weeks targeting permitting and zoning improvements.

Meetings/Outreach:

- Staff participated in meetings with partner agencies including CT Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD), seCTer, Greater Mystic Chamber, and Groton Business Association. Staff also continues to participate with Senator Osten specific to statewide economic development legislative initiatives focused on CT and RI.
- Staff interaction with businesses included communication with prospects and existing businesses. There were about 37 recorded inquiries and communications with businesses in November. Staff has been working to attempt to secure Faria Beede who is looking to relocate.