

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

*February 2017*

The following summarizes economic development division activities for February 2017.

### **Economic Development Activities:**

- Airport Development Zone (ADZ): Staff received word that DECD staff recommended approval, but still awaiting a final certification.
- Public Property Redevelopment (517/529 Gold Star Highway): Discussions with development teams are ongoing.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Mystic Oral School): Staff now has direct access to the property and began running commercial advertisement in the New England Real Estate Journal. Direct contact with prospects are occurring.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Groton Heights): Staff has developed draft rezoning language to be submitted to Groton City.
- Marketing/Website: Staff reviewed 28 proposals in response to the ED Website RFP. A short list of candidate teams has been refined and interviews will occur shortly. GBA and the Town continue to promote the brand/logo contest. Cumulus Media interviewed staff for a last effort promotion. The submittal deadline is February 28<sup>th</sup>. Staff continues working with Camoin regarding a welcome packet to be printed including key information sheets. Such packet can be distributed to businesses and future employees.
- 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. Work is ongoing leading to the submittal of an implementation grant proposal. A preliminary submittal for review will occur on March 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): Staff continues to work with Camoin to develop a TIF program including policy/procedures and multiple TIF districts including areas at Route 184/117, Downtown Groton, and possibly Thames Street Waterfront. Staff met with one developer and Electric Boat to match needs.
- Incentives: Staff has begun reviewing the existing tax abatement ordinance for potential future amendments. Coordinating with the Tax Assessor's Office is ongoing.
- Community Wayfinding Signage: Staff received multiple proposals responding to the issued RFP for the development of a community wayfinding sign plan. Proposals have been scored and interviews will occur shortly.
- Economic Assistance Fund: Staff presented the revised EAF Guidelines package and gained approval from the Town Council in February. The new guidelines are now in effect. The Day also interviewed staff and released a decent article.

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- LEAN Process Improvements: OPDS staff finalized the LEAN streamlining process and presented a final report to an internal grouping of multi-department staff. A future presentation will occur before others including the Town Council.
- Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Staff has been active with seCTer in finalizing a draft CEDS document including data, maps, and direction. The final report went live online the last week of February.
- AOPA Fly In Groton: Staff participated in a second meeting on February 21<sup>st</sup> regarding an upcoming October 6-7, 2017 Aircraft Owners Pilots Association (OAPA\_ "Fly-In" to be held in Groton. This is a significant event and only four national locations are chosen annually. See this link for more information. <https://www.aopa.org/community/events/aopa-fly-ins/2017-aopa-fly-ins>

### **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 interaction with businesses included communication with prospects and existing businesses. There were about 32 recorded inquiries and communications with businesses in February. Staff attending the ribbon cutting ceremonies at HOME Spa and ALDI's.