

Economic Development Activities

October 2015

The following economic development activities were undertaken by staff during the period from October 1 through 30:

Internal Projects

- Staff presented PowerPoint presentation to Town Council meeting in October to explain priority initiatives and upcoming projects.
- Zoning Audit and Market Analysis: staff met several times to review draft of Market analysis and Zoning Audit and to discuss edits and recommendations; Focus Group meeting held on October 29th presented draft findings from both reports; drafts will be finalized and then sent out to Focus Group and other interested individuals for review and comment
- Airport Development Zone: staff spent considerable time projecting anticipated construction and jobs that ADZ might create and began writing application to DECD; staff drafted referral memo for Town Council authorization and will forward to Town Council next week; staff also reached out to several business organizations to request letters of support for project
- Staff worked with other departments to review application for Brownfield Area-wide Revitalization Planning grant from Ct Office of Brownfields. Staff submitted referral to Town Council for authorization to pursue grant and plans to submit an application focusing on the Poquonnock Bridge Village area by November 16, 2015 deadline
- Business Tracking spreadsheet is still being fine-tuned, but staff added 45 items to spreadsheet and has been adding contact information as well as business outreach related activities
- “Business Welcome Package” project: researched and drafted development flowchart

Meetings/Outreach

- Participated in meetings with partner agencies including Connecticut Submarine Century Executive Committee, Thames River Heritage Park, Southeastern Connecticut Cultural Coalition, GBA, Mystic Chamber, seCTer, and CEDAS.
- Staff worked with several parties interested in the reuse and redevelopment of the former Poquonnock Bridge Fire House as well as continued to provide support to Brendan Woolrich, assisting him through the permitting process for his indoor volleyball facility. Staff also met with a property owner to discuss their reuse of a commercial building as a co-work space, and referred a growing business in the need of meeting and office space to the property owner.
- Staff worked with a representative from “Business In Focus” magazine to set up an interview for a feature article about Groton. Staff requested photographs from several agencies; set up an interview team and put together initial information for “pitch” to magazine representatives. Interview is set up for early November.
- Staff worked with a consultant to submit two Groton based defense contracting businesses in response to an RFP for a “Design Readiness Assessment” project that will be conducted in the coming months.

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- Staff has been working with town departments to determine whether the community policing substation in downtown Mystic can be used for a visitor information kiosk and is putting together a proposal for what it would take to get such a facility up and running, including how it would be managed
- Connecticut Submarine Century kicked off with several high profile events in October including the 100th anniversary of submarines arriving at SUBASE New London in 1915. Staff will continue to participate in Executive Committee and is working to coordinate flow of information to DECD; business related activities and engagement; and banner display throughout participating communities
- Thames River Heritage Park Transition Team met several times to discuss upcoming meeting with Office of Policy and Management to discuss Urban Action grant application, progress in setting up non-profit for park management and outreach to the community.