

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

October 2017

The following summarizes economic development division activities for October 2017.

Economic Development Activities:

- Website/Video/Marketing: Preparation for soft launch was ongoing including final template development and content development. Groton video production was ongoing for a fall launch. Hard copy marketing materials (“cut sheets”) are being finalized. Staff participated with the CAA in marketing the Groton Airport and Groton at the Aviation Operators and Pilot’s Association (AOPA) “Fly-In” on October 4 by setting up a table with materials. The new Groton logo was formally introduced to businesses at the October 19th GBA meeting.
- CT Next/Innovation Places - TRIP: An introduction of the new TRIP Executive Director, David McBride, occurred on October 4th. Ongoing Board support regarding CT Next Quarter 1 reporting, milestones, and budget. Town of Groton staff is the project lead for the Undersea Supply Chain Consortium Project with UConn. There are weekly meetings addressing implementation including hiring a Director, securing offices at Avery Point, and building the supply chain network. Ongoing work with seCTer in securing an Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant for technical assistance. Staff is also leading the TRIP website effort as well as adding new entrepreneurs to the TRIP Board.
- “Live Where You Work” Event: Staff participated in a forum with Liberty Bank on October 25th at the Groton Library. This informed Groton residents about the private and public financing programs.
- “Doing Business in Groton Guide”: Product final formatting is ongoing.
- Wayfinding Sign Plan: Meetings are ongoing with town staff and a steering committee to advance the plan’s development. The RTM was presented the concepts developed by BETA.
- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): Staff continues advance to the TIF policies prepping for anticipated approval by the Town Council. Future TIF plans and agreements for key growth areas such as Center Groton, Downtown Groton and Thames Street. Two developers have been active in anticipating such approval to help catalyze their developments.
- Incentive Application: Staff has been finalizing a “Preliminary Incentive Application” to serve as the first step for all interested in pursuing incentives. This will assist in documenting and understanding true needs so that programs can best be matched with businesses.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Mystic Education Center): Staff submitted a draft RFP to the state for review and comment. There has been ongoing communication/agreement between the town/DECD/DEEP regarding redevelopment logistics. Oral School repaving was requested by

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the town and the state agreed. Coordination with ED staff occurred and repaving will occur the first full week in November. The MEC website houses all of the project's information.

- Public Property Redevelopment (Groton Heights): Staff presented at the public hearing before the Groton City Zoning Board of Review regarding the submitted zoning amendment. The amendment pertains not only to Groton Heights, but would impact all institutional properties owned by municipal and state government in the city. Further requested modifications were made to the draft after the hearing. The hearing has been continued to November 21st. Ads within the New England Real Estate Journal (NEREJ) have been placed. Staff has been showing the property often. A sign will be installed on the property once a hearing has been held.
- Public Property Redevelopment (517/529 Gold Star Highway): Discussions with development teams are ongoing and advancing.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Seely School): Staff worked with a commercial broker and architect. The Council supports working to market the reuse of this property and others at one time. Discussions with abutters are ongoing. A mixed use development is the ideal option. Signage has been installed and there have been significant discussions with developers.

Meetings/Businesses:

- Staff interaction with businesses included communication with prospects and existing businesses. There were 30 recorded business inquiries and communications in October.
- One notable significant business is Thayer-Mahan that opened on Leonard Drive (Airport Industrial Park) on October 19th. www.thayermahan.com. Other businesses are inquiring and locating on Leonard Drive in the future.
- Staff working with CERC regarding making Groton making site selector "short list" for large national company.
- Central Hall in Mystic submitted plans and is breaking ground in early November.
- Staff attended in the Northeast Developer's Association Annual Conference from October 1-3.
- Staff attended the Southern New England Planning Association conference from October 26-27.