ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE
January 2017

The following summarizes economic development division activities for January 2017.

Economic Development Activities:

- Airport Development Zone (ADZ): Staff received word that DECD staff recommended approval, but we are still awaiting a final determination.

- Great Blue Research Survey: Great Blue and staff conducted a presentation to the RTM on January 11th.

- Public Property Redevelopment (517/529 Gold Star Highway): Discussions with development teams are ongoing.

- Public Property Redevelopment (Mystic Oral School): Town Council reaffirmed project direction and grant agreements were signed and sent back to DECD. Access to the property is now being provided by the state so OPDS can show the property. Advertisements will begin in February.

- Public Property Redevelopment (Groton Heights): Staff has developed draft rezoning language to be submitted to Groton City.

- Marketing/Website: Staff addressed questions from prospective website bidders and posted all answers as a public addendum. Proposals are due January 31. In addition, the brand/logo contest was launched in conjunction with the GBA. 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. BOOST project meetings are being held on Wednesday, February 1st and Saturday, February 4th. Staff has been active in assisting with key implementation projects that will be integrated into the proposal.

- Tax Increment Financing (TIF): Staff has been working with Camoin to initiate a TIF program for Groton including policy/procedures and multiple TIF districts including areas at Route 184/117, Downtown Groton, and possibly Thames Street Waterfront.

- Incentives: Staff has focused on printing the "Business Incentives and Assistance" brochure. It outlines existing state and local programs for the business community.

- Community Wayfinding Signage: Staff received multiple proposals responding to the issued RFP for the development of a community wayfinding sign plan. Proposals are now being evaluated leading up to short-list interviews.

- Economic Assistance Fund: Staff prepared the Council referral memorandum and plans on requesting approval in February.

- <u>"Growing in Groton: A Resource Guide"</u>: 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.

- <u>LEAN Process Improvements:</u> 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.

- <u>Community Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):</u> Staff has been actively participating with seCTer in finalizing a draft CEDS document including data, maps, and direction.

- <u>AOPA Fly In Groton</u>: Staff participated in a meeting regarding an upcoming October 6-7, 2017 Aircraft Owners Pilots Association (OAFA_ "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 49 recorded inquiries and communications with businesses in January.