

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION UPDATE

June 2017

The following summarizes economic development division activities for June 2017.

Economic Development Activities:

- Website/Marketing: Staff continues to work with Golden Shovel on our new dedicated economic development website. The new ED web will be launched by fall of 2017. Staff has been working on gaining high resolution photos for the site. Also, the Library/GMTV staff have graciously agreed to help us with video footage for the new website. In addition, Camoin continues to help develop hard copy materials. Such packet can be distributed to businesses and future employees as well for our use as a participant at the ICSC Conference in Boston this July.
- Logo/Branding Contest: The Town Council endorsed the final concepts from the contest. Staff is coordinating with a graphic designer to finalize the design. These graphics will be used with the website and promotional materials.
- CT Next/Innovation Places - TRIP: The award of up to \$900,000 has been approved by CT Next. Staff is heavily involved in the TRIP project addressing contract discussions, Executive Director hiring, development of by-laws, and focus on the Undersea Technology Consortium Project with UConn.
- Thames River Heritage Park: Economic Development staff developed and submitted the CT Ports Authority grant for \$730,000 for the Nautilus Dock extension. CT Ports Authority recommended approval of this proposal to their bonding authority. The town is awaiting final award notification.
- Community Wayfinding and Gateway Signage Plan: This project has launched including a meeting with BETA. The objective is to develop a plan with focus on aesthetically designed and functional entrance signs. A small ad-hoc group is assisting staff with the effort including fundraising for future implementation.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Mystic Education Center): Significant staff effort has occurred with this project including a public meeting on June 22nd. Materials continue to be developed and uploaded on the website including environmental, floor plans, process description, etc. Staff continues to show the property to multiple interests. Marketing has increased advertising in the New England Real Estate Journal. Special thanks to David Preka to assisting with the real estate sign installation.
- Public Property Redevelopment (Groton Heights): Floor plans have been added to the website. Staff has developed draft rezoning language to be submitted to Groton City.
- Public Property Redevelopment (517/529 Gold Star Highway): Discussions with development teams are ongoing.

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- Public Property Redevelopment (Seely School): Staff has become more engaged with this project. Numerous developers have come forward showing interest.
- CDBG Funding: Staff worked with the CT Department of Housing to complete a planned review our CDBG program as a part of their consideration of additional funding to the Town of Groton. We are awaiting further information from the state regarding our \$800,000 grant application for the Mystic River Homes project.

Meetings/Outreach:

- Staff interaction with businesses included communication with prospects and existing businesses. There were about 32 recorded inquiries and communications with businesses in May. Staff participated in a CEDAS webinar addressing business outreach.