

MYSTIC TOURISM WORKING GROUP  
TOURISM – HOSPITALITY, TRANSPORTATION - PARKING, INFRASTRUCTURE  
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 25<sup>th</sup> 2024

10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 12:00PM, 1C and Zoom for members.

**Tourism sub-committee** meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Chairman, Rep. Meskers

Guest Attendees: Michael Finley

Meskers: Sub-committees will meet every two weeks.

Goal for today I to identify issues to discuss and solve for the working group.

Lenda: Guest experience, how can we compete with similar locations. Discussion of ad dollars.

Meskers: Highlights a focus on traffic, has questions about taxing districts, is a taxing district an option to grow the specific economy of Mystic. Concerns over distribution of specific collected taxes.

Arling: Obstacles of business: public transportation of staff.

Zoning laws are restrictive at times.

Middleton: Cell phone service, resident concern for increased traffic and pressure on infrastructure

Meskers: Importance of quality-of-life vs quality of infrastructure. Balance the needs of Residents, guests, and workforce. Goal is to enhance the tourist and residence experience.

Fusaro: Identifies that parking and transportation plays a roll in the residence, employee, tourist experience. Data collection shows limited parking expansion availability. Would like to effectuate staff parking off site to clear out the turn over parking areas.

Lenda: Would like data collected on the guest experience. Are there items that could be added to improve guest experience n mystic.

Regan: ow can we sustain tourism as it grows.

Meiser: Worker transportation and housing. Parking off site then shuttle bus.

Fusaro: Discussion but no movement on public parking. Some local cooperation to open private lots to tourism.

Meiser: Availability of work force.

Meskers: How do we incorporate a greater workforce for specific CT industries, a restaurant hospitality program.

Arling: Outdoor green spaces are underutilized. Focus on pedestrian traffic experience improvement. Develop walkability.

Lenda: CT dies well with public private partnership. Room for Grants system exploration and growth for business ides with intermodal transportation and small business support.

Next meeting in two weeks.  
Adjourn 11:00 AM

**Transportation Sub-Committee** meeting called to order 11:05 AM by Rep. Meskers.

Meskers: opening intro.

Boughton: Asked data from DOT awaiting comprehensive data.

Fusaro: Attn- distributed Downtown Mystic parking study has some great starting points.

Meskers: Discussion of Bus-Shuttle-Trolley

Burt: Discussion of trolley funding, cost, etc.

Fusaro: Mentions Raised bridge crossing complications.

Middleton: Trolley was tried and abandoned due to finances and traffic. Waterway use is the better opportunity.

Rattan: Water Taxi implementation ideas. There is a deficit of transit options. Will send current data. DOT has said it won't fund duplicate services as in micro transit. Believe transit is underfunded.

Meskers: Funding research and data is needed.

Lenda: Questions manipulation of congestion hours for transportation of bridge movement.

Regan: Parking structure ownership, public or private. Move parking off main roads. Can state roads be turned into town roads.

Burt: Cost is significant if towns take ownership from state.

Bumgardner: Trolley was not a successful endeavor. Border crossing can be looked at for needing additional support. Groton is currently reviewing a Compete Streets project.

Rattan: State vs. local road would exclude and limit funding opportunities. Possibility of adopting village zones.

Goodman: State roads converting to local roads seems an impossibility.

Miser: Reviewed prior points.

Meskers: Traffic pattern considerations?

Fusaro: History of some unsuccessful implementation.

Next meeting in two weeks.  
Meeting closed 11:59 AM

**Infrastructure Sub-Committee** Meeting called to order 12:00 PM Rep. Meskers

Meskers: Organization of group priorities.

Burt: Raised roads etc. Issues of infrastructure.

Tully: Discusses dredging, feasible but complicated.

Meskers: Discussion and request for taxing district info. Why are they created? How do they perform? How are they utilized?

Dayton: Will look into specific zoning district DATA.

Rattan: Investigate zoning codes to make area more resilient against flooding if possible. MS4 Funding possibilities. Impaired waterbodies. Bathroom sanitation/ FHWA VAST tool to help prioritize improvements for hazard mitigation.

Meskers: Discusses dredging, permit process, cost.

Bumgardner: Discussed proposals of District Master plans.

Meskers: Need to develop a plan with priority regarding timing and finances of issues.

Burt: Dredging questions.

Regan: Moratorium on sewer hookups in Stonington.

Meskers: Would like more information on sewer moratorium in Stonington.

Pyrke-Fairchild: Flooding issues effecting parking.

Bumgardner: Grant possibilities for environmental causes, watershed etc.

Next meeting in two weeks.

Meeting closed at 12:40 PM