

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

October 10th, 2024

10:00 AM Tourism- Hospitality, 11:00 AM Transportation-Parking, 12:00PM
Infrastructure, 1C, Zoom, and YOUTUBE.

Tourism sub-committee meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair Sen. Hartley

Guest Attendees: Michael Finley

Hartley – Convene meeting.

Attendance

Hartley Discussion of proposed ideas for group

Tax areas- taxing mechanisms to recognize inception localities, Parking, and transportation, Public- tourist-staff, Cell phone connectivity, Guest experience, Walkability, Public and private partnerships.

What are we missing?

Cheesebrough – Tourism funds increase for state.

Flax – Increased funds would be ideal for this situation.

Hartley- Knowing what this increase would be used for would be very helpful.

Flax- Funding use- Connect towns and cities, technology to use for tourism.

Cheesebrough- Tourism App and Map could help and has shown a large ROI in other areas implementing the technology.

Hartley- ARPA funds will affect budget cycle. Discussed the importance of local tourism funding advocacy.

Middleton- User Experience discussion.

Hartley- Discussion on sources of alternate funding for local projects.

Lenda- Marketing elevation discussion – Guest experience using the available amenities are stellar. Infrastructure needs improvement prior to an increase of users.

Cheesebrough- Focus group to learn how to effectively move people around. A state partnership would be imperative.

Ideas- Water taxi, trolley, parking expansion.

Hartley- DOT engagement is looking positive with the water transportation.

Cheesebrough- DOT partnership with local and state roads in area for design and engineering would be helpful.

Zapata- Complete streets program works closely with the region. CCOG helps coordinate. There is an 80/20 match funding split requirement. Works out to 80/10/10 Fed/Municipality/Buyer.

Hartley- Importance of project specific requests. Projects need complete explanation to optimize funding opportunities. CCOG serve an important role in local government.

Lenda-Business owners and local chambers of commerce can be utilized for existing marketing strategies and their growth.

Regan-Discussion of transportation funding.

Zapatka- OTA has transportation funding as well.

Hartley- Discussion concerning restaurant owners association.

Cheesebrough- Discussion of tax revenue going back to municipalities where generated.

ACTION ITEM: Send Tax proposal reference doc and gather feedback.

Rep. Cheeseman- Projects need continued and focused leadership for progress.

Hartley- Prioritize list for movement forward.

Boughton- Strategic planning- Infrastructure- Cape May as example- Hershey Pa is funded differently.

Next meeting in two weeks.

Adjourn 11:03 AM

Transportation Sub-Committee meeting called to order 11:03 AM by Chair Boughton.

Boughton- Would like to schedule town site visit.

Zapatka- Major capital projects will help area.

Hartley- Challenge about local funding match discussion.

Boughton- Grants needs are becoming acute. CCM has grant writers available for use.

PPP are complicated but an important way to fund projects.

Cheesebrough- Trolley discussion, looking for more info.

Boughton- Trolley will not fund itself.

Regan-Trolley wasn't fully appreciated by tourists and businesses.

Flax- Will investigate trolley history and report back.

Zapatka- Micro transit possibilities and discussion

Challenges- no connection between routes – stalled in stacked Traffic, driver shortages, Uber drives have complications in certifications for municipal use.

Fusaro- Local ordinances may restrict bus travel, these ordinances may inhibit travel routes.

Rattan- Water transportation is in discussion.

Hartley- Draw Bridge timing issues

Rattan - DOT and Maritime association: MOU between dictates Bridge and use timing.

This specific bridge is historically designated.

Boughton- Bridge goes up every 40 past the hour and causes much traffic.

Fairchild- Parking and congestion are to be considered separately.

Fusaro- Parking and congestion can be intertwined.

Hartley- Draw Bridge age question.

Rattan- Maybe 40-50 years. Written to help marine transport.

Zapatka- Should a statement be considered by the committee.

Boughton- Agrees to making a directional mission statement.

Rattan: Can DOT provide metrics in subject area.

Zapatka- Will investigate finding existing data.

Review: Pull together a level set, Site visit, Airport questions, micro transit investigation, tax increment financing, Dot metrics gathering, develop an overarching mission statement.

Next meeting in two weeks. Possibly sooner.
Meeting closed 11:48 AM

Infrastructure Sub-Committee Meeting called to order 11:51 AM Sen. Hartley

Hartley- Discussed GZA study

Burt-Back flow preventatives for the river. Raising river road project, will monitor project for effectiveness. Looking to cost out suggested projects.

Hartley- Identifies coastal need for sustainability and resilience considering current weather events.

Cheesebrough- Identifies needs for federal help. In Mystic the inflow into the sewer system led to a moratorium on sewer permits.

Hartley- Identify revenue support because of importance of safety and to support business. Strength in a coalition between small and large businesses.

Dayton- Working on coordinated efforts across the state for climate resiliency.

Action Item: Invite Joana Brown to next Sub- Committee meeting.

Rattan- Coastal communities specifically sensitive to sea level rise.

Burt-Had a resiliency study to address flooding roads.

Rattan- Discussed Groton's priorities for resiliency, i.e. Evacuation.

Hartley- Look for federal grant funding. Agency perspective for the group will be beneficial.

Burt- Locally need storm water drainage attention.

Hartley: Invite Joanna Brown from OPM to next meeting, share list of resources, Goal is to work collaboratively to address resiliency issues.

Regan- Sewer moratorium in Stonington is inhibiting business growth. Problem with finding funding for infrastructure. Clean water fund: To line pipes to reduce inflow into sewer systems.

Next meeting in two weeks.
Meeting closed at 12:29 PM

