

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

October 30th, 2024

10:00 AM Tourism- Hospitality, 10:30 AM Transportation-Parking, 11:00 AM
Infrastructure, LOB 1C, Zoom, and YOUTUBE.

Tourism sub-committee meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Chair Rep.
Meskers

Meskers – Convene meeting.

Sen. Hartley summarized prior meeting discussion of primary and secondary issues.
Consider what's being done with transportation but also marketing to let others know
what's going on.

Peter Armstrong - user experience and Mystic is important.

MESKERS - overall experience inclusive of multiple venues

** tribal conversations to be included in discussions.

FUSARO- public safety resources are strained by events and Mystic staffing not only
done during events but after including fire and EMS is strained.

MESKERS -bulk of support comes from the municipalities, consideration should be
made to send raised funds to support local public safety.

Boughton -statutes and contracts make the person holding the event responsible for
necessary funds to support the event.

FUSARO -quality of life can be diminished by large Mystic events.

MESKERS -driving people to Mystic will require a balance of residence and tourist user
experience.

* All proposals need to be metered with residents and tourists in mind

FUSARO- parking meters were not supported by residents.

MIDDLETON- user experience versus funding. Funding requires a clear plan resident
support is important.

*How to get people to go to Mystic using a travel experience.

FLAX- chamber wants to maintain events while ensuring safety and generating
revenue, so it doesn't rest on the taxpayers noted dot restricts use of lampposts for
advertising.

MESKERS- advertising- does DOT rent space?

**What is the DOT policy?

Boughton -Mystic tourism will happen regardless of extra efforts.

Close of meeting 10:32

Next Meeting November 13th.

Transportation and Infrastructure Sub-Committees

Called to order: Chair Rep. Meskers 10:32 AM

Boughton-Mystic needs parking

ZAPATKA- \$1 billion to Mystic area 300 million of that is specifically going to Groton and Stonington in the Mystic area.

A vision statement is needed to address specific investments. Gave a summary of last meeting.

MESKERS-consideration of one way and two-way roads. Advance issues of additional parking.

* DOT considerations for support of a parking structure. What's the criteria?

Commerce has been approached with many project proposals for Mystic to move towards a solution for respective parties this working group was created.

MIDDLETON- what parking details of capacity are in the thought process?

MESKERS- would like to cover shortage with an over capacity to accommodate future growth. Newport has a hub model to possibly review.

O' Donnell- how far from parking congestion does a parking structure have to be to be effective?

ZAPATKA- half mile is ideal it's good to try to keep it close.

MESKERS drive towards the parking spot with possible voucher for further experiential transportation.

Armstrong Mystic type towns need parking outside of town, pedestrian only towns seem to be a solution, Colonial Williamsburg is pedestrian only.

Regan- retail sales may be affected by restricted parking. Residents and tourist traffic flow will need passes reflecting their parking and travel needs.

Ratan- need to identify freight loading zones that would help bulky purchases.

MESKERS- parking permits- timed parking for freight loading.

** Discussion on parking and trolley experiential transportation.

FUSARO residential timed parking has not been embraced nor has one-way designations.

Burt- no parking ticket enforcement.

** Follow up with DMV for enforcement and state reciprocity.

GOODMAN- commented on one-way designations not being popular.

MESKERS- change parking ticket revenue to more going to the locality ask commissioner.

Rep. BUMGARDNER- micro transit pilot program should be investigated. Would like to see the data from those pilot programs.

Burt- will retrieve pilot program data.

Boughton - parking ticket revenue can be leveraged for parking structures with multiple other sources of revenue.

Rep. BUMGARDNER- Referencing 10 through 13 in the special act for resiliency. Build budget or cost analysis of future climate infrastructure needs.

Close 11:48

Next meeting November 13th.

