



TOWN OF STONINGTON

SELECTMAN'S OFFICE
DANIELLE CHESEBROUGH
FIRST SELECTMAN

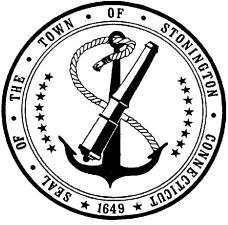
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Dear Committee:

We are so appreciative of the efforts underway to assist with ensuring Mystic is a desirable location to both live, work and visit.

Below are key areas for the Committee to consider when discussion priority areas:

- 1. Resiliency:** John Burt from Groton has created a list of key areas of concern and opportunities for partnerships. In addition to the points on his list, we wanted to highlight challenges the Mystic Seaport is and will face regarding rising sea-level and increased flooding from storm, as well as the Mystic Aquarium's challenges with storm water flooding in their parking lot.
- 2. Sewers:** Mystic is in a better place than it had been thanks to a funding partnership with the State to look into the I&I issue facing the Mystic system. Our next endeavor (very short-term) is lining the pipes to prevent inflow. In the longer-term, it could be useful for this group to discuss ways state and federal funding could support resiliency measures for the system. Also related to this, is the impact visitors have on the sewer infrastructure, which relates to the below.
- 3. Local Sales Tax:** Please see draft memo attached. This is very much still a draft form, but would like the Committee to consider, and offer feedback (particularly our State partners).
- 4. Traffic and Parking:** Stonington and Groton have been actively working on addressing challenges related to traffic and parking in downtown Mystic for nearly three years. There was a stakeholder committee made up of members from both sides of the rivers, including residents and business owners. While we welcome both residents and visitors enjoying all that Mystic has to offer, and appreciate the support for our local businesses and nonprofits, it has placed growing pressure on the roads and parking supply. In addition to local efforts to address this, support from State and Federal partners would be highly appreciated. One main objective for Stonington is to keep cars close to exit 90,



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and move people around from there more efficiently. There is work underway to develop a water taxi that the Mystic Seaport could run thanks to support from a local property owner off of Exit 90 (to allow for some parking on site), and the State DOT for being open to a lease agreement as they own the parcel where the possible dock could be constructed. Since this infrastructure is for tourists mainly, outside funding is needed to design/engineer and construct. Note- Stonington applied to the CT Port Authority grant for engineering funds this summer (TBC if selected). Other options include a trolley, but the financial feasibility may be challenging if not subsidized. Lastly, enhancing the opportunities for safety cycling is a priority that cannot be realized without State and Federal assistance. Nearly all the roads leading from Exit 90 to downtown Mystic are State Roads, and the local municipal staff does not have the resources (time or funding) to design, engineer and fund changes to the roadway. Assistance on this front would be extremely welcome. Further, in the areas that do have sidewalks, they are largely in need of repairs which is also costly. We want to create a walkable, bike able community that is connected; however, resources constraints make this very challenging.

These are the high-level needs that seem to fit this group's mission; however, very much looking forward to hearing more from others.

Best,

Danielle