



Town of Stonington
Cultural District Commission
152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

MINUTES
Special Meeting/Walking Tour
Cultural District Commission
March 19, 2024 10:30am-2:30pm
Multiple locations in Mystic and Stonington

Anthony Caporale
Regular Member
present

R. Douglass Rice
Regular Member
present

Laura Hopkins
Regular Member
present

Gabriella Radujko, Scribe
Regular Member
present

Paul Geise, Chair
Regular Member
present

Elizabeth Wood
Regular Member
present

Matthew Beaudoin, Vice Chair
Regular Member
present

Marya Ursin
Alternate Member
present

Susan Lavender Fornara
Alternate Member
absent

Sandra Alexander
Alternate Member
present

Daniel Brandl
Alternate Member
present

Jessica Cerullo
Alternate Member
present

- 1) Call to order: Paul Geise, Chair, Cultural District Commission called the meeting to order at 10:35am in front of the "tug boat" at the Mystic Seaport Museum's south entrance courtyard. Quorum achieved. Guests from various local, county and state organizations were present in addition to SCD commission members.
- 2) The meeting began with a walking tour of the two proposed cultural districts- Mystic Bridge and Stonington Village as part of the SCD commission's application with the Department of Economic and Community Development which proceeded from the museum to Holmes Street, past the Bascule Bridge and onto Cottrell Street, looping via Washington to Broadway, Willow, Greenmanville and returned to the south parking lot. From there, attendees drove to Stonington Point and walked the village north on Water Street to Wadawanuck Square and back via Main Street, next to the Velvet Mill Sculpture Garden, folloed by a reception catered by Zest Bakery at around 1:45pm.
- 3) Along the routes, short presentations about local history, architecture, notable cultural events and happenings were offered by SCD commission members, including Daniel Brandl, Elizabeth Wood, R. Douglass Rice, Jessica Cerullo. Lisa Konicki, President of the Ocean County Community Chamber of Commerce and the Ocean Community Chamber Foundation spoke about the significance of collaborative initiatives, such as the Lobster Trap Tree Project, which ignored state lines to great acclaim.
- 4) Elizabeth Shapiro, Director of Arts, Preservation and Museums addressed the commission and guests at the Velvet Mill about strategies for increasing the visibility of the SCD commission, if the proposal for the two cultural districts is approved, budgetary matters and ideas about digital presence vis-à-vis the CT Visit website.
- 5) Mr. Geise thanked invited guests and commission members for their attendance and participation in the walk and the meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm by consent.

Respectfully submitted,
Gabriella Radujko, Scribe