



Town of Stonington  
Economic Development Commission

152 Elm Street  
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Bowdler  
Chairman

Cullen Hagan  
Vice Chairman

Virginia Abernathy  
Member

Elsie Bisset  
Member

Hannah Cedermark  
Member

Charles Clew  
Member

Don Fiore  
Member

Suzanne Lane  
Member

Christopher Smith  
Member

Stephen Bessette  
Alternate

Sarah Welch  
Alternate

*The EDC's mission is to advance the Town's economic prosperity; foster equitable and sustainable growth; and champion a thriving community.*

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Tuesday, November 21st, 2023, 6:00 pm  
SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Hannah Cedermark, Don Fiore, Sarah Welch, Charles Clew, Elsie Bisset; DoP: Susan Cullen. One member of the public.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- 2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: October 11th Regular meeting.  
Motion: KB, Second DF, **All in Favor**
- 3) **New Business**
  - a) Sam Greenberg presented the latest draft of the Stonington Marketing Video. A list of ideas for enhancements was collected and will be shared with Sam and Marcus Gramm who is also working on the project.
  - b) A motion was made by KB to elect Cullen Hagan as Chair of the EDC and Elsie Bisset as vice-chair of the EDC, effective January 1, 2024. Seconded; DF, **All in Favor.**
  - c) Discussed the 2024 EDC Budget for both deliverables and dollars. Key objectives will be about business outreach, community outreach, driving inbound traffic of residents and potential investors, new business support, editing the B roll footage from the marketing video for more targeted support of local industry groups via social media. Agreed to request a modest \$1,000 budget increase to cover the costs of third-party consultants.
  - d) Kevin Bowdler and Suzanne Lane both term off the EDC on December 31<sup>st</sup>. We currently have one open space so we are looking for a total of three new members. What skills or areas of competence are we missing? We agreed Real Estate and Banking expertise would be valuable. SW will pursue a Real Estate lead. KB will look for Banking expertise.
  - e) To get more involvement with local businesses, we discussed potential guests to meetings in 2024. Suggestions included all three Chambers of Commerce, SeCTor, Bike Stonington, Fishing fleet (Joe Gilbert), CT Chief Manufacturing Officer, Realtors, Cultural Commission, Tourism representative.
  - f) A December meeting will be held if need be. KB and CH will decide in December.
  - g) No New Business
- Old Business**
  - a) Discussed the progress on the attached project sheet. Members to refresh Key Objectives, accomplishments and Next steps for each of their projects.

Susan Cullen provided an update on the following projects she is working on the Route 1 sidewalk project is almost completed. Cultural District Commission is starting to discuss their opportunities, Stillman Mill Grant and Boathouse projects are ongoing.

**Public Comment** – None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Bowdler

EDC Projects		Status Report as of November 2023		
2023 Project Initiatives	Key Objectives	EDC	Accomplishments / Latest Progress	Next Steps
Comprehensive Zoning Update	Provide Economic Development-	Don	Ongoing	Phase 2 of the zoning update begins with the the Public Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, November 28th at 6:00pm at Board of Ed Office. Issues surrounding
Communications/Marketing / Branding	email blasts every 4 to 6 weeks to inform and educate; Stonington video; EDC Social Media	Sarah/Stephen	Several new posts added across the platforms by Thomas. Sarah scheduled posts on social media. Next eblast WE 11/7. Sam and Marcus have provided 2nd draft marketing video.	We need to follow up with Marcus re: additional reels/posts of previous non time-sensitive email stories. Sarah and Thomas have posted on Instagram. 3rd version of the marketing video was reviewed on 11/24/23. Feedback has been provided to Sam and Marcus
Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Higher-Potential Property Analysis.	Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome " Partner with Town and property	Chris/Hannah Cullen/Chris	Attended Beautification Mtg on 8/17/23	No November update Susan Cullen and Frank Desantis have been in touch re possibilities for the Campbell Grain Building
Business Outreach	Continue outreach to support new and EDC representative	Suzanne/Virginia Inia	Database of businesses has been developed, facilitating communication, and April. EDC voted to contribute \$150 towards advertising Bike to Work month.	No November update
Establish bikeways Developer/Business/Investor Liaison	EDC Representative who can be on call	Don Elsie	New Project awaiting prioritization	No November update
Welcome & Support	Reach out to newly registered	Virginia/Charles/Stephen/	Attend Chamber Meet & Greets	No November update
Promote Pawcatuck	EDC Representative who can be on call	Sarah, Don, Chris		No November update
Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote	Charles/Hannah	Initial communication established with TM	TM provided additional information for review
Donahue Park Ext / Riverwalk	complete survey and permitting; conceptual design; quotes for engineering / construction; explore financing alternatives	Cullen	Cullen and Susan met with DEEP who advised that this is a BIG project. They are concerned about coastal resiliency. The Army Corp of Engineers need to be engaged. This project will bubble along	No November update