



**Town of Stonington**  
**Economic Development Commission**  
152 Elm Street  
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Kevin Bowdler**  
Chairman

**Jim Lathrop**  
Member

**Suzanne Lane**  
Member

**Dan McFadden**  
Member

**Virginia Abernathy**  
Member

**Cullen Hagan**  
Member

**Elsie Bisset**  
Alternate

**Derek Johnson**  
Alternate

**Don Fiore**  
Alternate

**EDC Mission:**  
*To assist in the establishment of new business in Stonington; finding business locations; State of Connecticut and local assistance and incentives; introductions to area officials and business leaders; and area statistics and information.*

**MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 6:00 pm**

**SPS District Office Board Room, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT**

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Cullen Hagan, Elsie Bisset; Don Fiore, Virginia Abernathy

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
- 2) The EDC Minutes of the Regular Meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup> and EDC Special meetings December 16<sup>th</sup>, December 20<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, were approved.  
Motion: Kevin Bowdler Second: Elsie. **All in Favor.**
- 3) New Business.
  - a) It was decided that the next regular EDC meeting that was scheduled for 2/14 (Valentine's Day) will be canceled and held as a Special Meeting on Tuesday February 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - b) The Mystic Chamber will be occupying the old Mystical Toy space for 2023 and has offered Stonington and Groton screen/monitor space to highlight Stonington. We will look to fund half the cost of the monitor.
  - c) We discussed the proposed STR ordinance and concluded that it does not increase the grand list because it is about a change of use. EDC is about building more housing of all sorts, not so much about the use of such properties. There is no evidence that the economic support of business is materially different between STR use or long term lease use. There is just a difference where the spend occurs. E.g. tourist businesses Vs local businesses and services. As the proposed STR ordinance is not aligned with EDC's mission of growing the grand list and supporting ALL businesses, we will not take a stand on the topic.
- 4) Old Business: Project Updates were provided and have been updated in **red**, on the attached spreadsheet.
  - a) Re Initiative #11. Energy Fair. A motion was made to allocate \$1,150 to marketing the event. The money would be spent on yard signs, directional signs, brochures etc. The cost will be offset to some extent by vendor fees paid by

attending vendors. Motion KB, Second, VA, **All in favor.**

- b) Re Initiative #11. Energy Fair outreach to Commercial Property owners via postcards advertising the 1 pm session for Building energy options. A motion was made to spend up to \$300 on vista print (or equivalent). Motion: VA, Second CH, **All in favor.**
- 5) Department of Planning Report: Sidewalks are out to bid, Landscape design proposal for the Circus lot was shared.
- 6) Public Comment: Jennifer Lacquer updated the group on Bike Stonington initiatives and what EDC could do to help.
- 7) The meeting was adjourned at 7:27pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Kevin Bowdler  
Economic Development Commission



2023 EDC Goals and Objectives			In Progress - Active	
			On Hold - awaiting kick-off	
Status Report as of January 2023				
N	2023 Initiatives / Areas of Focus	Key Objectives	Leader	Accomplishments / Latest Progress
1	Comprehensive Zoning Update	Provide Economic Development-specific recommendations. Susan to invite consultant team to an EDC meeting, provide Keith's list of updates, and provide project plan with milestone dates	Susan / Don	Oct: Don to attend PZC meetings with consultants. Public comment 1Q23 once detail review of existing regs and issues complete; Nov: Don attends Phase 1 meetings, focusing on structure and definitions
4	Donahue Park Ext	complete survey and permitting; conceptual design; quotes for engineering / construction; explore financing alternatives	John	Oct: John to meet with consultant 10/14; goal is to complete application to DEEP; Nov: Tony Nenna presented conceptual plan, leading to a pre-app meeting with DEEP to determine permit-ability
5	Marketing / Branding / Placemaking	Continue incremental approach to placemaking through branding and wayfinding efforts; Stonington video; use Newsletter to inform and educate	Kevin	Jan: Stonington1649 platformupgrade underway, <b>APPROVED up to \$1,000. Marketing Video should be complete by Apr 23. Mystic Chamber will host Stonington1649 on monitor in Visitor Center</b>
2	Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Mechanic St	Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome"; Exit 90 water access at Elm Grove Cemetery, alternative energy hub; Mechanic St: conceptual design to improve appearance of railroad embankment	Elsie / Derek	Nov: on hold pending completion of Cultural District application (phasing EDC member resources). <b>Dec: initial meeting with Elm Grove Cemetery for easement for dock / water access</b>
7	Higher-Potential Property Analysis	Partner with Town and property owners to return to productive use; conduct another pass to identify non-performing, abandoned, vacant properties	Cullen	Oct: display properties on Google map on Stonington1649; Nov: cont. work on to-be-published map
3	Circus Lot / Dahl Oil Lot	Reconnect with Dahl property owner, use completed survey to complete landscape architect conceptual designs for Circus Lot uses	Jim	<b>Dec: Landscape design concept was shared at meeting. First Selectman is keen to purchase property.</b>
6	Cultural District	Work closely with SECT Cultural Coalition to realize establishment of Cultural District(s); membership on AH Commission	Elsie	Dec: application work continues; <b>EDC Action - write Letter of Support to BoS / BoF for Boro restroom CIP. Jan: Next Meeting 1/17/23</b>
8	Business Outreach	Continue outreach to support new and existing business; leverage Business Directory, seCTer resources	Suzanne	Oct: Identify commercial property owners and invite them to the Energy Fair (John, Virginia); Nov: database of businesses has been developed, facilitating communication, e.g. provide seCTer info
9	Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing	OPEN	Nov: <i>Stonington Fresh</i> effort connecting to restaurants, other PR efforts through website
11	Alternative Energy	Public information / early 2023 Fair. Partner with Climate Change Task Force	Kevin	Fair date set for 3/25 at Mystic Aquarium Research Center. <b>Jan: Schedule of speakers 99% complete. Need to finalize vendors. Marketing plan agreed. Volunteer needed to manage EV's. VA can help. Need a volunteer to invoice Vendors.</b>
12	Promote Pawcatuck River	Kayak Trail, recreation / tourism, WPWA	OPEN	
13	Establish bikeways	Police Commission supports: help establish network	OPEN	<b>Looking for EDC member lead</b>
10	Wequetequock Village	Revive Village heritage; dire prerequisites: water, sewer	OPEN	