



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

COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Bowdler
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Cullen Hagan
Vice Chairman

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Member

Don Fiore
Member

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Member

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Member

Virginia Abernathy
Member

Charles Clew
Alternate

Derek Johnson
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, April 11th, 2023, 6:00 pm
SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Suzanne Lane, Cullen Hagan, Elsie Bisset, Don Fiore, Charles Glew; DoP: Susan Cullen

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
- 2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: Mar 21st Special meeting; Mar 16th and Mar 23rd Special Joint meeting re Energy Fair. Motion EB, Second DF, **All in Favor**

3. New Business

(b) We discussed the Open PO with Tony Nanna, the engineer for additional work on the Riverwalk Project. In light of the meeting with DEEP it was decided that we are not in a position to agree what work would be done next on this project. A motion was made to close the outstanding PO. Motion KB, Second CH, **All in Favor**

© - A motion was made to request a disclaimer on the bottom of Stoningtonenergy.com to make it clear that the website is not a Town owned or managed website. Motion KB, Second DF, **All in Favor**. The group did not feel the need for a 'hold harmless' agreement but asked Susan Cullen if she could ask the Town Attorney. This could always be addressed in the future as we see how much interaction there is between the Town's Commissions and Stoningtonenergy.com

(d) A motion was made to pay the following invoices associated with the Energy Fair - \$58 for social media advertising, \$1,000 for creative, branding and marketing work by Thomas Mitchell and the print cost overrun from the previously approved \$1,150 that came in at \$1,485.74. (Additional \$335.74) Motion KB, Second DF, **All in Favor**

e. A generic story about the revitalization of the Mechanic Street mills will be included in the next eblast based on information provided by Mill owner, Doug Ferguson.

f. A motion was made to allocate \$150 to Bike Stonington and assist in marketing ride to work month. Part of our 'vibrant community' mission. Motion KB, Second CH, **All in Favor**

g. It was decided that EDC should not spend time and effort on STR data analysis when the recent Town wide vote overwhelmingly showed no support for any regulation of STRs.

h. We brainstormed outreach opportunities at an Industry wide level that could be done over the long term. We will continue to discuss this topic.

4. Old Business:

a) The latest version of the DRAFT EDC Mission Statement is "*The EDC's mission is to advance the Town's economic prosperity; foster equitable and sustainable growth; and champion a thriving community.*" We will ponder this latest version of the mission statement and possibly vote to accept it at next month's meeting.

b) Work is ongoing on updating the EDC page on the Town's website. Looking for volunteers.

c) We will clean up the project list to remove completed or 'long term' projects (see below) with a view to doing a prioritize exercise in the next few months.

5. Standing Items

Next POCD Implementation meeting is next week.

Susan Cullen provided an update on hiring a Town Planner and grant writer. Plus, update on sidewalks.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

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

Kevin Bowdler, Chairman
Economic Development Commission

2023 EDC Goals and Objectives

In Progress - Active

On Hold - awaiting kick-off

Status Report as of April 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 | Don attends Phase 1 meetings, focusing on structure and definitions. Project on hold until Keith Brynes replacement is onboard. |
| 2 | Donahue Park Ext | 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 |
| 3 | Marketing / Branding / Placemaking | Continue incremental approach to placemaking through branding and wayfinding efforts; Stonington video; use Newsletter to inform and educate | Kevin | Marketing Video a little delayed due to vacation. should be complete by May/June 23. |
| 4 | 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). Dec: initial meeting with Elm Grove Cemetery for easement for dock / water access |
| 5 | 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 |
| 7 | Cultural District | Work closely with SECT Cultural Coalition to realize establishment of Cultural District(s); membership on AH Commission | Elsie | April 18th meeting being led by Elsie to identify Commission Volunteers which have been slow. Now looking at a June timeframe for commencement of this commission. Well done Elsie! |
| 8 | Business Outreach | Continue outreach to support new and existing business; leverage Business Directory, seCTer resources | Suzanne/Virginia | Database of businesses has been developed, facilitating communication, and resides on the G drive plus Stonington1649.com map |
| 10 | Establish bikeways | Police Commission supports: help establish network | Kevin/Don | April. EDC voted to contribute \$150 towards advertising Bike to Work month. |
| 6 | Circus Lot / Dahl Oil Lot | Reconnect with Dahl property owner, use completed survey to complete landscape architect conceptual designs for Circus Lot uses | OPEN | COMPLETE from an EDC Perspective. Moved to First Selectmans office |
| 9 | Alternative Energy | Public information / early 2023 Fair. Partner with Climate Change Task Force | Kevin/Don | COMPLETE |
| 11 | Promote Pawcatuck River | Kayak Trail, recreation / tourism, WPWA | OPEN | Inactive |
| 12 | Promote Fishing / Town Dock | Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing | OPEN | Inactive |
| 13 | Wequetequock Village | Revive Village heritage; dire prerequisites: water, sewer | OPEN | Inactive |