



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

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, July 11th, 2023, 6:00 pm
SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Cullen Hagan, Elsie Bisset, Hannah Cedermark, Don Fiore, Suzanne Lane, Virginia Abernathy, Charles Clew, Chris Smith; DoP: Susan Cullen

1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: June 13th Regular meeting.
Motion EB, Second CG, **All in Favor**

3) New Business

It was agreed that Cullen Hagan would draft a letter to the owner of the Dalh Oil lot asking if EDC/Susan Cullen could meet to discuss development opportunities of this long unused property.

4. Old Business:

We agreed the updating of the Town EDC webpage. HC will circulate her notes from the prior discussion. Various members are providing data for the website. EB will collate all the changes and work with Town Hall to implement the updates.

The next EDC eBlast is ready to go out. We will focus on expanding the email distribution list to interested Stonington residents.

The Commission reviewed our updated project list progress. See updates attached.

Susan Cullen provided updated including the following:

- The last easement for sidewalk has been granted. 200K grant received for Threadmill South, New grant manager will start part-time, EV charging update at Town Hall, all local permitting for Mystic Boathouse Park is now complete.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bowdler
Economic Development Commission

EDC Projects					
Status Report as of July 2023					
No.	2023 Project Initiatives	Key Objectives	EDC	Accomplishments /	Next Steps
1	Comprehensive Zoning Update	Provide Economic Development-specific recommendations.	Don	Ongoing	FHI Studios and PZC are scheduled to host Phase 1 Review for Adoption public hearings on Wednesday July 26 at 7pm (Virtual) and Thursday August 17th 7pm at Board of Ed Conference Room. Adoption of Phase 1 of the new Zoning Regulations presently scheduled for special PZC meeting on Thursday September 19th at 7pm at Board of Ed.
2	Donahue Park Ext / Riverwalk	complete survey and permitting; conceptual design; quotes for engineering / construction; explore financing alternatives	Cullen	DEEP who advised that this is a BIG project. They are concerned about coastal resiliency. The Army Corp of Engineers need to be	
3	Communications/Marketing / Branding	email blasts every 4 to 6 weeks to inform and educate; Stonington video; EDC Social Media	Kevin/ Sarah	Marketing Video a little delayed due to vacation. should be complete by May/June 23.	Meet with Marcus and Thomas to discuss social media strategy. Next eb;last 7/13
4	Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Mechanic St	Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome" Gateway.	Chris/ Hannah		HS & CS to attend Stonington Beautification Committee meeting on July 17th
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/ Chris		Oct: display properties on Google map on Stonington1649; Nov: cont. work on to-be-published map
6	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.	Westery Ed Center is evaluating results of the job fair and report back. We need to continue to promote supporting small business during the summer season through our marketing tools.
7	Establish bikeways	EDC representative to support Bike Stonington group	Don	April. EDC voted to contribute \$150 towards advertising Bike to Work month.	Potential income could be generated from metered parking funds if town voters approve metered parking at a special Town meeting tentatively scheduled for Monday July 24 at 7pm at Stonington High School.
8	Alternative Energy	Partner with Climate Change Task Force to see if there is a potential project that could be supported by EDC and CCTF	Kevin/ Chris/Don	Several meetings have been had with PACE, Energy Fair vendors, museums to understand Community Solar and solar canopy projects.	Working with Pace and CCTF re Community Solar. Next zoom meeting is 7/10 at 10 am. KB has requested quotes obo Stonington Borough for EV charging stations in Borough/Town
9	Developer/Business/Investor Liaison	EDC Representative who can be on call to meet with potential investors in conjunction with Town Hall and Chambers	Elsie	New Project awaiting prioritization	
10	New Business Welcome & Support	Reach out to newly registered businesses and offer support as and when required. Maintain Stonington Business contact list	Virginia/Charles	New Project awaiting prioritization	Charles and I attended our first ribbon cutting in Mystic. Introduced ourselves and presented Stonington canvas bags and stickers. Should identify loose procedures for future meetings.
11	Promote Pawcatuck	EDC Representative who can be on call to help support any downtown Pawcatuck initiatives, Pawcatuck River etc	Sarah, Don, Chris	New Project awaiting prioritization	Positive news released on Town website in regard to Thread Mill. Developer scheduled to present their initial ideas for the property at next PZC meeting on Tuesday July 18 at 7pm at Board of Ed.
12	Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing	Charles/ Hannah	New Project awaiting prioritization	Better understand history of interface with town, key players, long-term town vision for fishing. KB to introduce CG to Thomas Mitchell.