



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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Hannah Cedermark
Member

Don Fiore
Member

Suzanne Lane
Member

Dan McFadden
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

Special Meeting

Tuesday, February 7th, 2023, 6:00 pm
SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Dan McFadden, Suzanne Lane, Virginia Abernathy, Cullen Hagan, Elsie Bisset, Don Fiore, Hannah Cedermark; DoP: Susan Cullen

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

2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: Jan 10th Regular meeting; Jan 17th Special Meeting re Cultural Districts; Jan 3rd and Jan 25th Special Joint meeting re Energy Fair.
Motion KB, Second DF, **All in Favor**

3) (b) – A motion was made to fund up to \$600 towards the cost of a monitor and poster/mural in the Mystic Chamber visitor center that will allow visitors to view EDC's marketing website Stonington1649.com and the Stonington marketing video. Motion KB, Second VA, **All in Favor**

© - We discussed the pros and cons of the Town buying the Circus Lot and agreed to write a letter of support highlighting the importance of economic vibrancy that parks contribute to towns and that the Pawcatuck river is an underutilized asset that at some point could be connected to downtown Pawcatuck by a riverwalk. Motion KB, Second SL, **All in Favor**

(d) We discussed updating the mission statement and agreed on a number of words and phrases that could be incorporated into the mission statement; e.g. economic prosperity, vibrant communities, innovative, sustainable, champion, proactive, informing. **Cullen** will take these ideas and put something in writing for us to discuss at our next meeting.

e. The consensus was we could slim down the information on the Town website to include important information that is not a good fit for the EDC's marketing website, Stonington1649.com. The key information we thought important is: Stonington Town Profile (from Advance CT), Key metrics such as Top 10 Taxpayers, Top 5 employers, Bond Rating, Grand list summary, affordable housing availability. **Dan** will work on cleaning up the layout and the verbiage on the EDC website page.

Old Business:

See updates in Red on the attached project spreadsheet.

Updates on the POCD implementation committee, Department of Planning and Comprehensive Zoning update were given by Virginia, Susan and Don respectively.

Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bowdler, Chairman

2023 EDC Goals and Objectives

In Progress - Active
On Hold - awaiting kick-off

Status Report as of February 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	Cullen	Nov: Tony Nenna presented conceptual plan, leading to a pre-app meeting with DEEP to determine permit-ability Feb - Cullen to lead project
5	Marketing / Branding / Placemaking	Continue incremental approach to placemaking through branding and wayfinding efforts; Stonington video; use Newsletter to inform and educate	Kevin	Marketing Video should be complete by Apr 23. Mystic Chamber will host Stonington1649 on monitor in Visitor Center. Approved up to \$600 at Feb meeting
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). Dec: initial meeting with Elm Grove Cemetery for easement for dock / water access
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	OPEN	First Selectman is keen to purchase property. Feb EDC will write letter of support to first selectman and then remove this project if purchase proceeds.
6	Cultural District	Work closely with SECT Cultural Coalition to realize establishment of Cultural District(s); membership on AH Commission	Elsie	Feb; Ordinance written for Feb 27th Town Meeting seeking approval to establish 2 Cultural Districts.
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. Jan: Schedule of speakers 99% complete. Need volunteers to help at the fair..
12	Promote Pawcatuck River	Kayak Trail, recreation / tourism, WPWA	OPEN	
13	Establish bikeways	Police Commission supports: help establish network	Kevin	EDC will attend a Feb meeting to be set up with local bike group and state reps and First Selectman
10	Wequetequock Village	Revive Village heritage; dire prerequisites: water, sewer	OPEN	