

**Economic Development Commission, Town of Stonington**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT**  
**October 19, 2016 7:00pm**  
**Human Services Building, 166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT**

**Present:** Blunt White, David Hammond, Danielle Chesebrough, Kevin Bowdler, Rich Balestracci, Ward Smith.

**Absent:** Joel Valenti, Edward Planeta, Virginia Abernathy, Suzanne Lane, Pete Robinson, and Mark Dupont.

**Guests:** Jason Vincent DOP, Bill Smith (Executive Director, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce), Tim Murray (Downtown Mystic Merchants Association), Sal Ritacco (Board of Directors, Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce), Paul Sartor, Ben Tamski.

**Meeting Called to Order:** 7:02pm

**Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting held on 6/27/2016 at the Velvet Mill in Stonington Borough.**

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Ward Smith                      All in favor

**Approval of Minutes from Special Meeting held on 9/22/2016, note discussion later in meeting on Short Term Rentals and approval to amend those minutes.**

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Ward Smith                      All in favor

**Motion to Amend tonight's Meeting Agenda to add item, 2017 calendar year regular meeting schedule.**

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Ward Smith                      All in favor

**Motion to continue the current meeting schedule of 9 regular meetings per year, third Wednesday of each month except July, August and December at 7:00pm.**

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Ward Smith                      All in favor

**Old Business**

**Comments from the Public- Short-Term Rental**

Paul Sartor voiced his concerns with Short Term Rentals, Airbnb and VRBO usage in Stonington. Asked why EDC was involved in this issue and why prior meeting draft minutes indicated that "EDC would provide assistance to anyone that applies for a zoning text amendment." Requested that EDC not support this issue until they have data to back up economic argument.

**Motion to amend prior meeting minutes, to provide clarity to the word "assistance" in the prior minutes of 9/22/2016, change the word assistance to "guidance". To date EDC has not**

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taken a pro or con position on the merits of Short Term Rentals, but added Short Term Rentals Airbnb to its list of initiatives at its September meeting.

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Kevin Bowdler                      All in favor

Update on **Velvet Mill** outreach initiative from Kevin Bowdler. An EDC Special Meeting was held on 10/17/2016 at the Velvet Mill. EDC members Keven Bowdler, Blunt White and Danielle Chesebrough attended (no quorum), attendees were neighbors and tenants regarding improving community relations. See Addendum, informational notes, no EDC actions taken.

Update on **Fisheries** outreach initiative from Ward Smith. EDC members attended two meetings at the dock scheduled by Mike Gambardella. One on 9/23/2016 attended by EDC members Ward Smith and Blunt White, also in attendance were Senator Paul Formica and Captain Dick Grachek (F/V Anne Kathryn) the meeting was scheduled by Gambardella/SNEFLA to meet a masters level student researcher who did not arrive until very late at which time only Ward Smith was in attendance. Gambardella/SNEFLA held a second meeting on 10/13/2016 for a meet and greet with new ENCONN Police Captain Keith Williams, in attendance were Ward Smith and Blunt White. See Addendum informational notes.

Update on activities of **POCD** Implementation Committee from David Hammond. Next POCD Implementation Committee meeting scheduled for 12/5/2016.

**Planning for EDC Chamber Business Roundtable input to zoning regulations:**

November 10<sup>th</sup> Salt Water Farms, sponsored by EDC, Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce and Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce, roundtable discussion to determine business community recommendation for update to zoning regulations. Jason Vincent will moderate. EDC members encouraged to attend.

**Motion to approve \$200 for snack and refreshments for meeting**

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Kevin Bowdler                      All in favor

**At the recommendation of Jason Vincent - Motion to hold Special EDC meeting to discuss EDC contributions to zoning regulations on 21 November and 7 December at 6:00pm.**

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Danielle Chesebrough                      All in favor

**Motion of support for Town to seek Federal and State grants for new Boathouse and Park**

**Motion:** Danielle Chesebrough                      **Second:** Blunt White                      All in favor

**New Business**

Motion for Dave Hammond to be new EDC Chair and Kevin Bowdler as EDC Vice Chair:

**Motion:** Blunt White                      **Second:** Danielle Chesebrough                      All in favor

**Adjourn 9:30**

**Motion:** Blunt White

**Second:** Ward Smith

All in favor

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Danielle Chesebrough, Acting Secretary

Addendum:

Notes from Velvet Mill informational gathering held on 10/17/2016.

Notes from Fisheries informational gathering held on 10/13/2016

*Blunt White, Member 11/2/2016*