

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes for
March 18, 2015
Human Services Building – 7:00pm

Present: Amy Arruda, Blunt White, Danielle Chesebrough, David Hammond, Edward Planeta Jr., Joel Valenti, Richard Balestracci and Suzanne Lane

Town Guests: High School Students from the Citizens in Action class, Ben Tamski a member of the Zoning Commission and Brook Constance White, a reporter from the Westerly Sun.

Call to order: 7:05pm

Motion to amend Draft Minutes of February 18 2015 meeting to reflect "Letter to Selectmen" not "white paper," discussion points from that meeting added as an addendum to the minutes.

Motion: Blunt White Second: Ed Planeta All in favor

Business:

POCD Report Review- The meeting focused on the activities since the last meeting surrounding the POCD Report and final steps before its approval.

Previous Activities:

- The POCD Subcommittee held a Special Meeting on March 18 and will be making new recommendations to the Selectmen at the Public Hearing on March 25. They changed position on Village Districts (recommending remove from POCD, in concurrence with EDC) and will recommend increased use of master planning tools (no change from previous recommendation, POCD Subcommittee in concurrence with EDC, however in opposition to PZC's position in the draft POCD dated 2/6/2015).
- The Conservation Commission may also issue their own recommendations for the Selectmen's Public Hearing.

Future Actions:

- The Mystic and Westerly-Pawcatuck Chambers of Commerce are also making recommendations.

The EDC requests the Mystic Chamber make it clear that their recommendations to the Selectman are being sent on behalf of their entire board.

Motion: Blunt White Second: David Hammond All in favor

- EDC reviewed their five previous recommendations, to ensure all members were in agreement.
- All five previous recommendations were agreed to, and two (the last two listed below) were added. The updated recommendations are:

- (1) No to the creations of Village/Historic Districts;
- (2) Yes to greater use of Master Planning tools;
- (3) No to new lot size regulations (Buildable Land Regulations);
- (4) No to increase in subdivision open space set aside (from 15% to 20%).
- (5) No to Town land acquisition Authority
- (6) Yes to attracting a new 100+ employee company to build in Stonington, which should be a 'high value add, low impact use' employer;
- (7) Yes to establishing growth goals for the Grand List.

EDC will deliver a revised letter to the Selectman, making its seven recommendations in a more concise fashion.

Motion: Blunt White

Second: Dave Hammond

All in favor

- All EDC members are encouraged to attend the upcoming Selectmen's public hearing on Wednesday March 25 (5:30 PM SHS Commons). At this meeting the Selectmen will consider public comments before issuing their recommendations to PZC on the POCD.

Motion to adjourn: Blunt White

Second: Dave Hammond

All in favor

Approved 4/15/2015
Blunt White
EDC Chair