



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

COMMISSIONERS

Dave Hammond
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Kevin Bowdler
Vice Chairman

Jim Lathrop
Member

Suzanne Lane
Member

John Godin
Member

Dan McFadden
Member

Bill Hobbs
Member

Virginia Abernathy
Member

Cullen Hagan
Member

Elsie Bisset
Alternate

Derek Johnson
Alternate

Don Fiore
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.*

FINAL MINUTES

Regular EDC Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2022 6 pm

SPS District Office Board Room, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Jim Lathrop, Suzanne Lane, John Godin, Elsie Bisset; Don Fiore, Virginia Abernathy, Derek Johnson, Bill Hobbs, Cullen Hagan.
Also present was Susan Cullen

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm.

Minutes were approved for Regular meeting, September 13, Special Meeting – Cultural District September 20 and Special Meeting – Energy Fair October 5th. Motion by Kevin Bowdler, seconded by John Godin. All in favor.

New Business. (a) Approved the regular meeting schedule for 2023 to be the second Tuesday of each month at 6 pm and to be held at the SPS District Office Board Room, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck. Motion by Kevin Bowdler, seconded by John Godin. **All in favor.**

The next EDC meeting clashes with the Election where some members are volunteering, and others are away. It was agreed that we would cancel the regular meeting for 11/8 and hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday 11/15 at SPS District Office (Room TBD), 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT. Motion by Elsie Bisset, seconded by Don Fiore. **All in favor.**

Jennifer Lineweaver plans to hold a Community Conversation about the Property Revaluation Process 2 to 3 weeks prior the letters being mailed to homeowners. (November or December). The EDC discussed ways to advertise the event so that Stonington homeowners can understand the process and the impact on their taxes.

EDC Priorities were discussed, and the attached spreadsheet has been updated. A few noteworthy comments are mentioned here; The Gateway project will be on a temporary hold. Elsie Bisset and Derek Johnson will work on this initiative after the Cultural Districts project is complete. The Cultural District sub-committee is looking at 2 districts. One in Stonington Borough and another in Mystic that starts at the Seaport and runs south towards downtown Mystic.

EDC would like to issue 8 to 10 email blasts from Stonington1649.com per year covering relevant economic development news. A motion was made by KB to pay \$250 to Thomas Mitchel or other qualified person to compile content, format and distribute each newsletter. Seconded by John Godin. **All in favor.**

A sub-committee of EDC and the Stonington Climate Change Taskforce has been meeting to co-sponsor an Energy Fair on March 25, 2023, at the Mystic Aquarium Research center. The goal would be to provide knowledge to Stonington residents and business owners about

various alternative energy options available and the government incentives associated with these investments. We will have keynote speakers and we will have panels of residents and business owners who have invested in Solar, Geothermal, batteries and heat pumps as well as vendors and installers of such products. We will also have EV's, electric bikes, power tools etc. on display. A motion was made by KB to issue a press release announcing the Energy Fair on March 25, 2023, and request expressions of interest from vendors who would like to be invited and who would pay some nominal fee to attend. The fee would go towards marketing the event. Seconded by John Godin. **All in favor.**

Other new business. The POCD Implementation Committee meets periodically and the EDC needs to have a representative at the meetings. Virginia Abernathy agreed to attend on behalf of EDC.

Susan Cullen updated the EDC re the Comprehensive zoning update meeting, the sidewalks initiative, Stillman Ave Mill, and the Mystic Boathouse projects.

No public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Bowdler
Economic Development Commission



David Hammond, Chairman
Approved November 15, 2022



2023 EDC Goals and Objectives Priorities Refresh Exercise / Economic Cluster and POCD Mapping

			Leader
No.	<div> <div>Key</div> <div>In-progress, 2022 activity</div> <div>Parking Lot: awaiting action by others</div> <div>Hold and monitor</div> <div>sunset</div> <div>Potential 2023 consideration</div> </div> <div>2022-23 Potential Initiatives / Areas of Focus</div>	Future Key Objectives	Leader (To be confirmed or appointed)
1	Comprehensive Zoning Update	Don will attend P & Z meetings with the consultants. No public comment expected until Q1 2023 after detailed review of existing regs and issues have been reviewed.	Don
4	Donahue Park Ext	John to meeting in person with consultant on 10/14. Goal is to complete application for permit to DEEP. If this is not deemed possible at 10/14 meeting, another consultant has been identified and work will start from scratch.	John
5	Marketing / Branding / Placemaking	Continue incremental approach to placemaking through branding and wayfinding efforts; Stonington video; use Newsletter to inform and educate	Kevin
2	Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Mechanic St	Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome"; Exit 90 water access at Elk Grove Cemetery, alternative energy hub; Mechanic St: conceptual design to improve appearance of railroad embankment. Elsie and Derek will partner on Gateways after Cultural District implementation.	OPEN
7	Higher-Potential Property Analysis	Partner with Town and property owners to return to productive use; conduct another pass to identify under-performing properties and display properties on Google map via Stonington1649	Cullen
8	Business Outreach	Continue outreach to support new and existing business; leverage Business Directory, seCTer resources. Identify commercial property owners and invite them to attend the Energy Fair. John and Virginia to help.	Suzanne

3	Circus Lot / Dahl Oil Lot	Reconnect with Dahl property owner, use completed survey to complete landscape architect conceptual designs for Circus Lot uses. Form sub-committee and meet. Don, Suzanne, Bill.	Jim
9	Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing	Dave
6	Cultural District	Work closely with SECT Cultural Coalition to realize establishment of Cultural District(s); membership on AH Commission. Next meeting 11/18 at 9 am to formalize 2 districts.	Elsie
11	Energy Fair	March 25th at Mystic Aquarium Research Center. Partner with Climate Change Task Force and PACE.	Kevin
10	Wequetequock Village	Revive Village heritage; dire prerequisites: water, sewer	OPEN
13	Establish bikeways	Police Commission supports: help establish network similar to Cultural District by finding bike enthusiasts who can form a sub-committee to progress the idea.	Kevin
12	Promote Pawcatuck River	Kayak Trail, recreation / tourism, WPWA. Combine with Donahue Park extension.	OPEN