



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

COMMISSIONERS

Kevin Bowdler
Chairman

Cullen Hagan
Vice Chairman

Elsie Bisset
Member

Hannah Cedermark
Member

Don Fiore
Member

Suzanne Lane
Member

Member

Virginia Abernathy
Member

Charles Clew
Alternate

Derek Johnson
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, May 9th, 2023, 6:00 pm
SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Hannah Cedermark, Suzanne Lane, Virginia Abernathy, Don Fiore, Charles Glew; DoP: Susan Cullen

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
- 2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: April 11th Regular meeting; April 18th, Special meeting re Cultural District. Motion KB, Second DF, **All in Favor**

3. New Business

Susan Cullen shared her top 3 priorities that could use EDC support. (1) Developer/Investor liaison, (2) Communications/marketing (3) New Business Welcome and support.

The following ideas were discussed as story items for next eblast:

- 'Help Wanted' for local business trying to hire. Profile piece by **Suzanne L**
- Affordable Housing summary of findings – **Hannah C**
- New Mission Statement – **Kevin B**

4. Old Business:

A motion was made to adopt the new EDC Mission Statement. *"The EDC's mission is to advance the Town's economic prosperity; foster equitable and sustainable growth; and champion a thriving community."* Motion KB, Second VA, **All in Favor**

Work is ongoing on updating the EDC page on the Town's website. We agreed that we should include the following items that currently do not exist, mill rate calculation, Town Profile and School info. **Virginia** will work on the best ways to present Total Budget numbers, Grand List summary and Top Ten taxpayers. **Charles** will work on presenting data for Budget spend by category, Total Revenues by category and Tax Revenues by category.

The attached project list has been updated to include some new project ideas. Refinement, prioritization and ownership of these projects will continue in following meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bowdler, Chairman
Economic Development Commission

2023 EDC Goals and Objectives

Status Report as of April 2023

No.	2023 Initiatives / Areas of Focus	Key Objectives	Leader	Accomplishments / Latest Progress
1	Comprehensive Zoning Update	Provide Economic Development-specific recommendations.	Susan / Don	Ongoing
2	Donahue Park Ext / Riverwalk	complete survey and permitting; conceptual design; quotes for engineering / construction; explore financing alternatives	Cullen	Cullen and Susan met with DEEP who advised that this is a BIG project. They are concerned about coastal resiliency. The Army Corp of Engineers need to be engaged. This project will bubble along
3	Communications/Marketing / Branding	email blasts every 4 to 6 weeks to inform and educate; Stonington video; EDC Social Media	Kevin	Marketing Video a little delayed due to vacation. should be complete by May/June 23.
4	Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Mechanic St	Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome" Gateway.		New Project awaiting prioritization
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	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. Email sent in April to all agriculture businesses re SectorRise grants
7	Establish bikeways	EDC representative to support Bike Stonington group	Kevin/ Don	April. EDC voted to contribute \$150 towards advertising Bike to Work month.
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	Several meetings have been had with PACE, Energy Fair vendors, museums to understand Community Solar and solar canopy projects.
9	Developer/Business/Investor Liaison	EDC Representative who can be on call to meet with potential investors in conjunction with Town Hall and Chambers		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		New Project awaiting prioritization
11	Stonington Job Posting Board	Use Indeed/Linkedin to help Stonington employers find staff		New Project awaiting prioritization
12	Promote Downtown Pawcatuck	EDC Representative who can be on call to help support any downtown Pawcatuck initiatives		New Project awaiting prioritization
13	Promote Pawcatuck River	Kayak Trail, recreation / tourism, WPWA	OPEN	New Project awaiting prioritization
14	Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing	OPEN	New Project awaiting prioritization