



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

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Kevin Bowdler**  
Chairman

**Cullen Hagan**  
Vice Chairman

**Virginia Abernathy**  
Member

**Elsie Bisset**  
Member

**Hannah Cedermark**  
Member

**Charles Clew**  
Member

**Don Fiore**  
Member

**Suzanne Lane**  
Member

**Christopher Smith**  
Member

**Derek Johnson**  
Alternate

**Sarah Welch**  
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, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 6:00 pm**  
**SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT**

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Cullen Hagan, Elsie Bisset, Hannah Cedermark, Don Fiore, Suzanne Lane, Virginia Abernathy, Charles Clew, Sarah Welch, Chris Smith;  
DoP: Susan Cullen

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

2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: May 9th Regular meeting. Motion KB, Second CH, All in Favor

3) **New Business**

- Joe Violette, Business Retention and Expansion Specialist from SeCTER came to share details on SeCTER mission and function. Key SeCTER highlights as follows:
  - Focuses on economic development in the Southeastern Connecticut region.
  - Offers non-traditional loans and grants.
  - Provides business advisory services and can be triage point for owners to other forms of support.
  - Serves all types of companies but works primarily with small & medium businesses.
- Motion was made to add a new business agenda item to discuss a funding request for a potential social media campaign for Stonington1649. Motion - Kevin Bowdler, Second – Elsie Bisset, All in Favor

Proposal to allocate \$900 to hire a marketing specialist to support 6 months with a minimum of 4 posts per month on the Stonington1649 handle. The purpose of these posts is to promote Stonington as a town as well as local businesses and engender civic pride. Motion to approve funding allocation KB, Second EB, All in Favor.

4. **Old Business:**

Discussed plans for future e-Blast articles including senior workforce, affordable housing, and background on updated EDC mission statement.

Reviewed town metrics compiled by Charles Glew on revenue and expenses for inclusion in updated data on Stonington town website for use by business community in better understanding the town.

The Commission reviewed our project list and updated ownership over the various items. 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.

Susan Cullen provided updated including the following:

- Shared appreciation from the Beautification committee for our support of the Pawcatuck lighting project
- All local permitting for Mystic Boathouse Park is now complete.
- Clifton Ilier has been hired as town planner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
*Cullen Hagan*

Cullen Hagan, Vice Chairman  
Economic Development Commission

**2023 EDC Goals and Objectives**  
**Status Report as of June 2023**

No.	2023 Project Initiatives	Key Objectives	EDC	Accomplishments / Latest Progress	Next Steps
1	Comprehensive Zoning Update	Provide Economic Development-specific recommendations.	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/ Sarah	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.	Chris/ Hannah	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/ Chris	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 Sector/Rise grants. Email sent to all businesses in May re Westerly Job Fair	
7	Establish bikeways	EDC representative to support Bike Stonington group	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/ Chris/Don	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	Elsie	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	Virginia/Charles	New Project awaiting prioritization	
###	Promote Pawcatuck	EDC Representative who can be on call to help support any downtown Pawcatuck initiatives, Pawcatuck River etc	Sarah, Don, Chris	New Project awaiting prioritization	
###	Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing	Charles/ Hannah	New Project awaiting prioritization	