



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

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Kevin Bowdler
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Cullen Hagan
Vice Chairman

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Hannah Cedermark
Member

Don Fiore
Member

Suzanne Lane
Member

Dan McFadden
Member

Virginia Abernathy
Member

Charles Clew
Alternate

Derek Johnson
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.

MINUTES

Special Meeting

Tuesday, March 21st, 2023, 6:00 pm
SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Virginia Abernathy, Cullen Hagan, Elsie Bisset, Don Fiore, Hannah Cedermark; DoP: Susan Cullen

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm
- 2) Motion was made to approve the minutes of: Approve Minutes: Feb 7th Special EDC meeting. Special Joint Meeting Minutes EDC and CCTF 2/10 and 2/23. Motion EB, Second DF, **All in Favor**

3) **New Business**

- a) We discussed the need to recruit new EDC members. Several members had some ideas, and they will reach out to those colleagues to see if there is any interest.
- b) EDC Members who have not completed the FOIA training are encouraged to do so in April.
- c) Cullen updated the group about his meeting with Joseph Violette from seCTer and we agreed that Joe should come to an EDC meeting when we will have a full roster of EDC members. Off the back of the seCTer discussion, we discussed a more proactive Business Engagement function for EDC. We will discuss this topic at future meetings.

Old Business:

- a) We brainstormed the draft EDC Mission Statement which currently stands at “...to advance the Town’s economic prosperity, it’s sustainability and vibrancy of Stonington” We will continue to work on the words that convey the ‘what’ is EDC’s mission, not the ‘how’.
- b) Some updates have been made on the EDC page of the Town’s website. KB, HC and DMc will work offline on further updates.
- c) See updates in **Red** on the attached project spreadsheet.

Susan Cullen gave an update on sidewalks, Mystic Boathouse project, STR’s, Hotel meeting, Mystic Parking, EDC Budget and FOIA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bowdler, Chairman
Economic Development Commission

2023 EDC Goals and Objectives

In Progress - Active

On Hold - awaiting kick-off

Status Report as of March 2023

N	2023 Initiatives / Areas of Focus	Key Objectives	Leader	Accomplishments / Latest Progress
1	Comprehensive Zoning Update	Provide Economic Development-specific recommendations. Susan to invite consultant team to an EDC meeting, provide Keith's list of updates, and provide project plan with milestone dates	Susan / Don	Don attends Phase 1 meetings, focusing on structure and definitions. Project on hold until Keith Brynes replacement is onboard.
2	Donahue Park Ext	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	Marketing / Branding / Placemaking	Continue incremental approach to placemaking through branding and wayfinding efforts; Stonington video; use Newsletter to inform and educate	Kevin	Marketing Video should be complete by Apr 23. Mystic Chamber will host Stonington1649 on monitor in Visitor Center. Approved up to \$600 at Feb meeting
4	Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Mechanic St	Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome"; Exit 90 water access at Elm Grove Cemetery, alternative energy hub; Mechanic St: conceptual design to improve appearance of railroad embankment	Elsie / Derek	Nov: on hold pending completion of Cultural District application (phasing EDC member resources). Dec: initial meeting with Elm Grove Cemetary for easement for dock / water access
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	Circus Lot / Dahl Oil Lot	Reconnect with Dahl property owner, use completed survey to complete landscape architect conceptual designs for Circus Lot uses	OPEN	The purchase \$\$ have been included in the 2023_24 budget. Grants are being sort for the work. Westerly is supportive of selling the property. This project will come off the EDC project list as the First Selectman's office will control it going forward.
7	Cultural District	Work closely with SECT Cultural Coalition to realize establishment of Cultural District(s); membership on AH Commission	Elsie	Mar; Ordinance was passed at Feb 27th Town Meeting. Town now soliciting applicants for the seven member Board which should be seated by May 31st. Well done Elsie!
8	Business Outreach	Continue outreach to support new and existing business; leverage Business Directory, seCTer resources	Suzanne	Nov: database of businesses has been developed, facilitating communication, e.g. provide seCTer info. Mar; Energy Fair postcards were mailed to all commercial property owners.
9	Alternative Energy	Public information / early 2023 Fair. Partner with Climate Change Task Force	Kevin/ Don	Fair date set for 3/25 at Mystic Aquarium Research Center. Mar: final arrangements being made
10	Establish bikeways	Police Commission supports: help establish network	Kevin/ Don	Don attended the meeting in March with the elected officials and the Bike Stonington group.
11	Promote Pawcatuck River	Kayak Trail, recreation / tourism, WPWA	OPEN	
12	Promote Fishing / Town Dock	Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing	OPEN	Nov: Stonington Fresh effort connecting to restaurants, other PR efforts through website
13	Wequetequock Village	Revive Village heritage; dire prerequisites: water, sewer	OPEN	