



**Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission**

152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378

**FINAL MINUTES
Special Meeting**

Thursday, June 20, 2019—5:30 p.m.
West Pavilion, Spellman Park, Pawcatuck, CT

COMMISSIONERS

Dave Hammond
Chairman

Kevin Bowdler
Vice Chairman

Jim Lathrop
Member

Suzanne Lane
Member

Richard Balestracci
Member

Dan McFadden
Member

Danielle Chesebrough
Member

Virginia Abernathy
Member

Pete Robinson
Member

Kristine Halleck
Alternate

Bill Hobbs
Alternate

Chris Donahue
Alternate

*EDC Goals:
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.*

Attending: EDC –Danielle Chesebrough and Pete Robinson; Department of Planning: Jason Vincent and Keith Brynes; Members of the public and a representative of The Sun

The Stonington Economic Development Commission (EDC) and the Department of Planning held a jointly organized ‘Community Conversation’ entitled ‘Stonington Greenways’. During the meeting members of the public were invited to place sticky notes on various maps to show where they live, where they walk, where they bike and then where they have a future vision for where they would like to walk and/or bike.

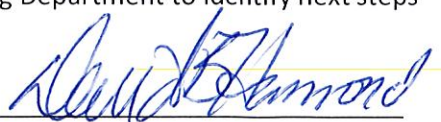
After the interactive exercise Jason Vincent shared insights as to why the EDC was hosting the Community Conversations focused on how community members could engage more on the topic of interconnected greenways, which could be walking, biking or even waterways such as the Pawcatuck or Mystic rivers. He shared information on the Town’s ‘Hike Stonington’ program as well the new plans to make a trail to connect the East Pavilion in Spellman Park to Parkwood Drive. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions and discuss as a group how our community could do more together to leverage our natural assets, with a focus on greenways and corridor- based planning.

Discussions took place regarding existing assets, ideas for new greenways, and whether there was an appetite to create new off-road trails. Some attendees shared their goals, which ranged from improving signage and communication of existing trails, to educating the community, to the desire for less need for cars for getting from point a to point b. There was also a point raised that this could be connected with other efforts in CT such as the Blue Blaze Trail system that ends in North Stonington. Another point was raised about leveraging the concept of ‘Pollinator Pathways’ creating connections within open spaces (and lawns) for improved access by bees.

During the meeting it was emphasized that the idea for this meeting builds on the recommendations in the 2015 Town of Stonington Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), but until an idea is embraced by the community (you!), it is just an idea.

Attendees agreed the Forum was a good first step to hear ideas from the community and receive confirmation that there is interest in making improved greenway connections. The next steps are for EDC representatives and community members to engage with guidance from the Stonington Planning Department to identify next steps for how to take work forwards.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle Chesebrough, Member
Economic Development Commission


David Hammond., Chairman EDC
Approved September 18, 2019