



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

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Dave Hammond**  
 Chairman

**Kevin Bowdler**  
 Vice Chairman

**Jim Lathrop**  
 Member

**Suzanne Lane**  
 Member

**Richard Balestracci**  
 Member

**Dan McFadden**  
 Member

**Bill Hobbs**  
 Member

**Virginia Abernathy**  
 Member

**Pete Robinson**  
 Member

**Kristine Halleck**  
 Alternate

**Chris Donahue**  
 Alternate

**OPEN**  
 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.*

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Special Meeting**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

Stonington Public Schools District Administration Office  
 40 Field St, Room 103  
 Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC: Dave Hammond, Kristine Halleck, Chris Donahue; Public: Tim Lebling, Leslie Driscoll, Laura Graham

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Riverwalk Citizen’s Committee, sponsored by the EDC, continued to discuss developing plans to extend the Riverwalk from Donahue Park in Pawcatuck, including:

- a. Collaboration efforts with Westerly.
- b. Construction of a temporary prototype walkway.
- c. A CIP has been submitted by the EDC. This would provide Town matching funds, required for grant applications.

The subcommittee has been sunset and will no longer be a subcommittee sponsored by the EDC. The Citizen’s Committee will be relaunched as a 501(c)(3) which will allow for fundraising and grant writing.

Jim Lathrop resigned from the subcommittee, effective January 23 (see resignation letter below). The subcommittee thanks him for his ideas and efforts to assess feasibility for this project, envisioned as a gathering place for the public, which stands to benefit all visitors to downtown Pawcatuck. Revitalizing downtown Pawcatuck is the EDC’s number one objective. Note: the Riverwalk concept received widespread support at the January 14 Community Conversation hosted by the EDC.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Dave Hammond, Chairman  
 Economic Development Commission

David Hammond, Chairman  
 Approved February 19, 2020

To: David Hammond – Town of Stonington EDC Chair  
Fr: James Lathrop  
Cc: Tim Lebling, Chris Donahue  
Re: Subcommittee Resignation – Riverwalk  
Dt: 1/23/20

Dave,

I am delivering this signed letter to you as I was unable to attend the Riverwalk Subcommittee meeting last night to address the subject matter of this letter.

Effective immediately, I am resigning my position on the EDC Riverwalk Subcommittee. The primary reason for this is to avoid any appearance of a conflict of interest as I am a property owner adjacent to the planned routing of Phase I of the Pawcatuck River Greenway.

Though I have made every effort to recuse myself from any votes that have taken place on the PRG initiative to date, it is appropriate at this time that I formally resign from this subcommittee given the desire for public funding of a portion of this project as well as the plan for the creation of a temporary riverwalk over some of my property later this Spring.

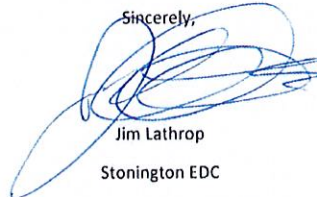
Reasoning: The Riverwalk Subcommittee and/or the 501C3 organization that will follow it will have to *ask my permission* for a temporary riverwalk easement as well as approvals for design, grading, and landscaping of portions of the 34 West Broad Street property. The final riverwalk design may also involve the public taking of private land, allow easements for public pedestrian traffic, and mandate the permanent removal of riparian rights for my property.

Given the potential conflict issues listed above and the solid team that has been assembled to accomplish this complex task, I feel confident that the final Riverwalk product will be an amazing addition for the Pawcatuck community without my future participation in its implementation.

I will always be available as a resource if any current or future committee member needs detailed information about my property, and of course I will still be an enthusiastic participant in many other EDC initiatives where no conflict exists. I sincerely hope that the result of the PRG committee's efforts bears fruit after many years of attempting to accomplish this worthwhile community goal.

I would respectfully ask that you please present this letter to all sub-committee members at the next PRG sub-committee meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and at that time record it with the minutes of the meeting.

Sincerely,



Jim Lathrop  
Stonington EDC