



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

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Danielle Chesebrough
Member

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Member

Pete Robinson
Member

Ed Planeta
Alternate

Bill Hobbs
Alternate

Ward Smith
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

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

6:00 P.M.

Human Services Building
166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

Present: Members – Dave Hammond, Kevin Bowdler, Jim Lathrop, Danielle Chesebrough, Pete Robinson, Bill Hobbs, Ward Smith, Rich Balestracci, Dan McFadden

Regrets: Members – Ed Planeta, Suzanne Lane, Virginia Abernathy

Guests: Nancy Cowser, Executive Director, seCTer; Jason Vincent, Stonington Director of Planning; Al Valente, Chair, GMCC Board; Sal Ritacco; Ben Tamsky; Katherine Hewitt

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
2. Minutes previous meetings were approved with no additions or corrections: Nov 13, 2017; Nov 15, 2017; Dec 7, 2017; Dec 18, 2017; Jan 8, 2018. **All in Favor**
3. Guest Speaker: Nancy Cowser provided an overview of the Southeastern CT Enterprise Region (seCTer) organization. Principle operations include regional economic development initiatives, grant-writing assistance, small business loans, and Procurement Technical Assistance (PTAC). seCTer activity is guided by the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), and seCTer's own Strategic Plan aligned to the CEDS. **Resolved:** EDC members should feel free, and are encouraged, to reach out to seCTer via Nancy to establish areas of collaboration.
4. Old Business:
 - a) **EDC-sponsored Community Conversations**
 - The "M-2" Broadway Ext contemporized zoning regulation effort is moved to **inactive** status.
 - Marinas: A continuing action following the successful Community Conversation with marina owners is to have a booth at the Hartford Boat Show (Feb 8-11). The joint effort by EDC and marinas in preparing for the Show has also served to gather marina business data to help complete the marina cluster analysis, and will become the prototype cluster on the website under development
 - TC-80 – The UConn landscape architecture department will undertake a case study in late March, developing conceptual graphics for this high-value zone to facilitate future Community Conversation.
 - CS-5 Old Mystic hamlet – Keep "on hold" on active list for a contemporized zoning regulation effort; awaits a resident / business owner champion(s)
 - Liberty Street – As one neighborhood ("M-2") was moved to inactive status, and another put on hold (CS-5 Old Mystic), the EDC elected to redirect focus towards Liberty Street. **Action:** A subcommittee was formed to draft a proposal for next steps, to be presented to the EDC at the next meeting. Liberty Street contemporized zoning regulation subcommittee members are

Dave Hammond, Jim Lathrop, Sal Ritacco, Rich Balestracci, and Danielle Chesebrough. Dave Hammond to organize first meeting.

- b) **Branding / Placemaking / Wayfinding** – A logo contest was staged and three finalists are selected for Rob Simmons' consideration. Primary challenge will be implementation: ideally all Stonington Departments / Boards / Commissions use the new image to emphasize a consistent Stonington brand. Next steps include producing a tool kit of the logo, letterhead, etc., and development of the website. The website will feature *Stonington by the Numbers* and other information for each economic cluster that EDC members are working on.
Motion – Dave Hammond: authorize \$299 for logo crowd-sourcing access.
Second: Pete Robinson. **All in favor.** **Note:** Dave Hammond was to circle back to SHS to see if an intern is interested in the project to create the cultural resource inventory – still awaiting response.
 - c) **PV-5 Economic Development discussion:** With the approval of the PV-5 contemporized zoning regulation, and the just-approved revision of the Substantial Improvements regulation to a one-year lookback period, downtown Pawcatuck is poised for new investment. Jim Lathrop has engaged in outreach efforts to current and prospective investors and property owners. An exciting third tool proposed to be added is Tax Increment Financing (TIF) via a Town Policy (must be approved at a Town Meeting) that would spell out the process for a downtown Pawcatuck TIF District. **Note:** TIF is a way to earmark new (incremental) tax revenue produced by development and increased value for specific uses; TIF does not reduce existing Town revenue. **Action:** A subcommittee was formed to develop the business case, communication strategy and materials, and to identify TIF champions and sponsors. The TIF subcommittee members are Pete Robinson, Rich Balestracci, Dan McFadden, Jim Lathrop. The subcommittee will work closely with Jason Vincent.
 - d) **Substantial Improvements / look-back:** Change to one-year approved at 1/16/18 PZC meeting.
 - e) **Community Education Forum planning:** Aquaculture Forum is set for January 29, 2018 7:00 p.m., at the La Grua center with expert speakers. **Motion** – Kevin Bowdler: authorize \$100 for La Grua rental and up to \$50 for refreshments.
Second: Jim Lathrop. **All in favor**
 - f) **Agriculture Committee Report** – Deferred due to time.
5. New Business:
- a) **Bikeways Plan** – Deferred due to time.
 - b) **EDC Comprehensive Economic Development Plan:** As above, website will serve to catalyze effort as EDC members develop content for each economic cluster
6. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hammond, Chairman
Economic Development Commission



Dave Hammond, Chairman
Approved February 21, 2018