



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

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**Dave Hammond**  
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**Kevin Bowdler**  
Vice Chairman

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Member

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Member

**Virginia Abernathy**  
Member

**Pete Robinson**  
Member

**Ed Planeta**  
Alternate

**Mark Dupont**  
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, March 15, 2017**

Human Services Building

166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

**Present:** David Hammond, Danielle Chesebrough, Pete Robinson, Suzanne Lane, Ward Smith, Blunt White, Rich Balestracci

**Regrets:** Joel Valenti, Kevin Bowdler Virginia Abernathy, Edward Planeta, Mark Dupont

**Guests:** Jason Vincent, Jane Meiser, Bill Sweeney, Jonathan White, Sal Ritacco

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.
2. Minutes of the 2/15/17 Regular Meeting were approved: **Motion:** Danielle Chesebrough; **Second:** Ward Smith; **All in Favor.**
3. Comments from Planning Department.
  - Jason Vincent discussed the HM (M-1) zone (see below) and the PV-5 proposal (see below). Also discussed: a proposed M-2 for Murphy Point that contemporizes uses, currently zoned M-1. **Action:** EDC please review and be ready to offer comment and suggestions.
4. Old Business:  
Economic Clusters:
  - Status Reports – Accomplishments since last meeting and next steps – by cluster leaders (5 minutes each) framework (POCD 10.2.11, 10.4.2) – see below, all others **deferred**
    - Attractions/Culture/Heritage (Tourism) (Joel, Mark)
      - Report out: Three EDC members attended the Business Breakfast: Tourism Forecast. Click on the "Power of Tourism" tab at <http://tourismct.com/> for the "Harnessing the Power of Tourism" presentation. Stonington's voice must be heard: **Action:** Suzanne will draft letters for the CT Tourism Advocacy Day in Hartford on April 24; Sal Ritacco will see about having the Chambers write letters.
  - Other Old Business
    - a. Branding Stonington through Economic Clusters - **deferred**
    - b. PV-5 Community input meeting set for March 27; economic analysis underway (Kevin). (POCD 8.1.5, 8.3.2, 10.2.4, supports 10.2.5): Meeting is set for March 27, 6:30pm at Pawcatuck Fire House. Attendees please RSVP so a count is known. The Day and The Sun have been notified and will publicize the event; the Department of Planning has sent

- notifications to all property owners. Several business owners have been directly contacted and are spreading the word.
- c. Grand List cluster analysis underway (Kevin, Dave) – **next step:** Dave and Kevin to review with Jason, then EDC can use to support economic cluster work
  - d. Signage, especially in support of Tourism at Mystic Gateway - **deferred**
  - e. Flood zone regulations and look-back period, especially with regards to Downtown Pawcatuck (POCD 8.2.4) - **deferred**

5. New Business:

**Stone Acres Farm proposed Master Plan for new Agricultural Heritage**

**Zone:** Jane Meiser provided an overview of the Stone Acres project seeking Master Plan approval for the new AHD zone, to go before the PZC on 3/21. The AHD is a planning tool designed to maintain economic viability of farming by expanding potential uses. The proposal maintains Stonington's agricultural heritage, part of the Town's identity, through farming and low-impact commercial uses. **Action:** EDC to send letter of support for project to PZC, Danielle to draft letter (ref: POCD 4.1.1; **Motion:** Blunt White; **Second:** Pete Robinson; **All in Favor**

- **Create a new Heritage Mill District (HM) zone:** the HM zone for the Mechanic Street mills area – contemporizing uses and streamlining the permit process – has been submitted and will be considered by the PZC on April 4. **Action:** EDC to send letter of support for project to PZC, Blunt to draft letter (ref: POCD 7.2.5, 8.1.4, 10.2.10); **Motion:** Dave Hammond; **Second:** Pete Robinson; **All in Favor**
- **Develop a Community Planning Forum** series where we bring in thought leaders to talk about “emerging” issues. **Expected Outcome:** brainstorm list of forum ideas, prioritize and time-phase - **deferred**

6. Adjournment at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Hammond, Chairman  
Economic Development Commission



Dave Hammond, Chairman  
Approved April 19, 2017