



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

COMMISSIONERS

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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

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.*

FINAL MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Wednesday, March 20, 2019

Human Services Building

166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

Attending: EDC – Dave Hammond, Kevin Bowdler, Rich Balestracci, Virginia Abernathy, Suzanne Lane, Bill Hobbs, Jim Lathrop; Department of Planning: Jason Vincent; New member effective 4/1/2019: Kristine Halleck; 6 SHS students.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Minutes from 2/20 Regular Meeting and 2/28, 3/1, 3/5, 3/6 Special Meetings were approved. Motion: Kevin; Second: Jim; **ALL IN FAVOR.**

EDC Initiative Work Plan Decisions: For Updates – see Table below:

- a. TCI Initiative (#2): Authorize up to \$250 for purchase of snacks for 4/25 Economic Forum and Intro to TCI at Saltwater Farm Vineyard. Motion: Kevin; Second: Jim; **ALL IN FAVOR.**

Department of Planning Report: Distributed via email.

Jim attended the Beautification Committee meeting and gave an update on the Pawcatuck Streetscape effort. No actions or decisions.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dave Hammond, Chairman
Economic Development Commission

David Hammond, Chairman
Approved April 17, 2019

Upcoming

- Apr 10, 4:00pm, Westerly Town Hall - Joint meeting of the EDCs
- Apr 17 - EDC Regular Meeting
- Apr 25, 6:00pm, Saltwater Farm - Economic Forum CT and TCI Community Conversation
- Apr 29, TBD – FOI Training
- May 3, 1:00pm, Gampel Pavilion – UCONN CE project presentations
- May 15 – EDC Regular+ Meeting – Special guest Laura Brown, UCONN Community & Economic Development

Stonington Economic Development Commission - MARCH 2019 Report			
Potential Areas of	Team	March Minutes / Meeting Notes	Completed Actions (since last EDC in RED)
1 Grain building lot - conceptual drawing and marketing strategy	Jim (Lead), Dave, Danielle, Rich, Suzanne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dave and Jim met with Washington Trust to request a Community Development Grant to fund Phase 1 of the architect proposal no updates from owner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> formed a team Oct 2018 rough DRAFT conceptual drawing RFQ v1.0; v2.0 (11/12) Team Meetings: 10/30, 11/14, 12/20, 1/9, 1/24, 3/1 proposal from local architect to draft conceptual schematics ongoing talks with owner requested Grant to fund drawings from Wash Trust
2 Continue to advance Targeted Community Investment (TCI) using TIF	Rich (Lead), Kevin, Dave, Jim, Pete, Sal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> speaker from CERC secured for Economic Forum Forum set for 4/25, 6pm at Saltwater Farm Vineyard \$250 approved for snacks for Forum Rich to set team meeting for week of 3/25 to plan Forum details: flyers, invites, presentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> follow-up with Washington Trust check in with owner re his effort for conceptual drawings and hotelier contact conduct PV-5 parking study brainstorm with developers hold Community Conversation market idea to developers
3 Marketing - branding / placemaking / wayfinding	Kevin (Lead), Dan, Bill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continued progress on Stonington 1649 website met with Groton re wayfinding sign project Kevin to schedule meeting with consultant (Beta) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> schedule next team meeting plan Community Conversation: awareness, acceptance, what do residents want to achieve with tool continue website development meet with Bos to start using logo meet with Groton's wayfinding consultant: Beta
4 Pawcatuck Historic Structure designation	Jim (Lead), Dave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> update at next Regular meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> met with state tourism reps re Cvisit.com linkage submitted entry to Smithsonian for possible inclusion in 20 Best Small Towns 2019 agreed to update EDC Facebook to Stonington 1649 standard
5 Acquire Circus Lot / Potential Uses	Bill (lead), DoP, Team pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill to plan clean-up project Jason to set 'courtesy call' meeting with Westerly Town Manager Conservation Commission has not acted on acquisition proposal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track: CT designation of 5 bldgs in downtown Pawcatuck; submission to US Dept Interior explore eligibility for grants and tax credits Broach idea with Westerly Identify funding options Hold a Community Conversation Engage a Landscape Architect to draft a Master Plan Understand cost
6 Stillman Ave mill	DoP, Team pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jason to send EDC draft report that includes alternative courses of action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of Support for Brownfield Grant Application sent to First Selectman 10/31 Grant application submitted, but was not funded
7 UCONN CE projects - PV pedestrian bridge / riverwalk / Mystic Train Station	DoP, UCONN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three senior project teams of UCONN Civil Engineering Students to present 5/3 1pm at Gampel Pavilion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> continue discussion of historic designation; drawback - if designated, will that prevent demo if no developer can be found? need a strategy to gain community and Town official support for preservation leverage designs to facilitate Community Conversations with property owners and Town officials
8 TC-80 Community Conversation #2 w/ UCONN Gateway plans	Pete	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful Community Conversation on 2./28 with over 40 attendees Jason to have meeting notes summarized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> decide next steps from 2/28 meeting output
9 Housing strategy	Dave (Lead), Chris, Kristene, Jim Kelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held 3/5/19 meeting with Harry Heller for 126 S Broad housing proposal Wrote Letter of Support, submitted to PZC Spoke in favor at PZC public hearing on 3/19 - proposal APPROVED 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Held Community Conversation 2/28/19 11/8 Housing Strategy meeting with David Fink team formed 3/5 Special meeting to understand 126 S Broad St proposal, submitted Letter of Support to PZC