



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

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Dave Hammond**  
Chairman

**Kevin Bowdler**  
Vice Chairman

**Blunt White**  
Member

**Suzanne Lane**  
Member

**Richard Balestracci**  
Member

**Joel Valenti**  
Member

**Danielle Chesebrough**  
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, May 17, 2017**  
**7:00 P.M.**

Human Services Building  
166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

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

**Regrets:** Joel Valenti, Virginia Abernathy, Edward Planeta, Blunt White

**Guests:** Chris Regan, Jim Lathrop, Jim Stanton

1. Meeting called to order at 7:04 P.M.
2. The Minutes of the April 19, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved: **Motion:** Dave Hammond; **Second:** Kevin Bowdler; **All in Favor.**
3. Comments from the Public: included below.
4. Comments from Planning Department: none.
5. Old Business:
  - a) **Economic Cluster Status Reports:** Agriculture/Aquaculture (Ward, Danielle); Marinas (Kevin, Virginia); Manufacturing (Pete, Ed); Retail (Suzanne); Lodging (Virginia); Attractions/Culture/Heritage (Tourism) (Joel, Mark); Restaurant/Entertainment/Events (Kevin, Danielle); Healthcare/Eldercare (Dave); Real Estate (Residential, Commercial) (Rich).
    - Commission members provided updates.
    - Dave Hammond presented a draft of "ED Plan" two-pager for Healthcare/Eldercare (ref: POCD Implementation Committee action for POCD 10.2.11, 10.4.2). The draft will be submitted to the POCD Implementation Committee at its June 5 meeting.
    - **EDC Discussion:** EDC to send a letter to the State Tourism Office highlighting the economic drivers of tourism and need for tourism budget. **Motion:** Suzanne Lane; **Second:** Pete Robinson, **All in Favor.** Action: Suzanne to draft letter.
  - b) **Create a new Heritage Mill District (HM) zone:** **Discussion:** The zone update was passed at the May 16 PZC meeting. (POCD 7.2.5, 8.1.4, 10.2.10).
  - c) **PV-5 zone update for downtown Pawcatuck:** **Discussion:** The draft PV-5 is being updated by the Department of Planning with public input from the March 27 Community Forum; the economic analysis prepared by the EDC is final and ready as support for application to PZC for zone update. **Public Comment** (Jim Lathrop): Ten 8-hour parking spaces have been approved, providing an incentive

for commercial business to locate downtown which has already led to one new business lease signed; he thanked EDC for the Letter of Support. Other issues/ideas: improve signage regulations, 5-year look-back discourages investment.

- d) **EDC-sponsored Community Forums** (similar to PV-5) (POCD 9.3.4, 10,2.5):
- **TC-80: Discussion:** the zone update was passed at the May 16 PZC meeting. **Public Comment** (Chris Regan): improvements, restaurants drawing in more people. Issues/Ideas: TC-80 should allow residential; comprehensive re-write of TC-80 should be a priority due to Grand List add potential; would like to host more events given low-impact to community with proximity to highway. **EDC Discussion:** EDC to do economic analysis of events for Stonington. **Motion:** Dave Hammond, **Second:** Rich Balestracci, **All in Favor.** **Action:** Kevin to start analysis; EDC to sponsor a community forum in the latter half of June. **Motion:** Kevin Bowdler, **Second:** Pete Robinson, **All in Favor.** **Action:** Dave to communicate possible dates and action steps.
  - **LS-5 zone update:** discussion deferred.
  - **Proposed M-2 zone update:** several property owners are motivated to contemporize uses for the existing M-1 zone on Broadway St Ext. **Public Comment** (Jim Stanton): seeking mixed use flexibility, M-1 uses are outdated and discourage investment. **EDC Discussion:** EDC to send a letter of support in favor of the zone change, pending feedback from the Department of Planning. **Motion:** Danielle Chesebrough, **Second:** Kevin Bowdler, **All in Favor.**

6. New Business:

- a) **Tourism marketing:** discussion deferred.
- b) **Develop a Community Planning Forum** discussion deferred.
- c) **EDC Budget:** discussion deferred.

7. Adjournment at 9:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dave Hammond, Chairman  
Economic Development Commission



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Dave Hamond, Chairman  
Approved September 20, 2017