

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
November 16, 2016 7:00 pm
FINAL
Meeting Minutes

Present: David Hammond, Danielle Chesebrough, Kevin Bowdler, Rich Balestracci, Pete Robinson

Regrets: Joel Valenti, Edward Planeta, Virginia Abernathy, Suzanne Lane,

Guests: Jason Vincent, Ward Smith (agriculture sub-committee), Sal Ritacco (Board of Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce), Student Guest

Meeting Called to Order: 7:05

Approval of Special Minutes 10-17

Velvet Mill meeting with neighbors and business

All in favor of approval with no changes

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes 10-19

All in favor of approval with no changes

Updates

Planning Department (Jason Vincent)

- Ribbon Cutting at Thread Mill this past week.
- On 12-20 Planning and Zoning will be holding a workshop where the public can share views in favor and against short-term rentals.
- Submitted a grant application for Mystic River Park; Received a grant for sidewalks in Pawcatuck.
- Stone Acres farm will be presenting to Planning and Zoning on 6 December for its first phase of planning.
- Perkins Farm will be setting a date for presenting for Phase II to Planning and Zoning.
- Department of Planning has completed a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget total 17MM that will go through its normal review process by the Towns selectman and Board of Finance.

Saltwater Farm hosted Business and Zoning meeting

- 10 November, 5:30-7:30, the Mystic Chamber of Commerce, Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce and Stonington Economic Development Commission hosted a meeting for local business community to provide input to zoning regulations. Jason Vincent from the Town of Stonington Planning Department moderated. Attendees were

encouraged to sign-up for zoning meeting updates and stay involved. EDC members who attended gave a summary of points raised during the meeting, including:

- professional zoning district separate from commercial
- conforming and non-conforming zones
- weight limit of vehicles parked at a home
- mixed use properties not being able to use second floor as commercial
- short-term rentals
- flood zone look back period
- floor area ratio compared to watt coverage (horizontal vs vertical)
- delivery zone required space
- different types of signage approvals
- use of form based codes or mixed use zoning to improve walkability and more integration
- increase in bike and walking paths, including level side walks for bike and walking
- different areas of town have different feelings and current zoning doesn't allow for this nuance

Special EDC Meeting

Special meeting to discuss changes to zoning regulation will be held on 21 Nov and 7 Dec at 6pm. Location TBD.

Short Term Rental Research Report

EDC submitted a report to Planning and Zoning to show the arguments for and against short-term rentals.

Motion to provide \$100 of EDC funds for special meeting with farming sector in January

Motion: Ward Smith

Second: Pete Robinson

All in favor

Adjourn 9:30

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Hammond
Chair



David Hammond, Chairman

Approved 12/7/2016