



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

Special Meeting

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Human Services Building
166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

Present: Dave Hammond, Kevin Bowdler, Blunt White, Virginia Abernathy, Ward Smith
Regrets: Suzanne Lane, Rich Balestracci, Joel Valenti, Danielle Chesebrough, Pete Robinson, Ed Planeta, Mark Dupont
Guests: Sal Ritacco, Jason Vincent

Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of prior Minutes:

Motion to approve the minutes of prior meetings: September 15, 2016, November 16, 2016, November 21, 2016, November 30, 2016 as written was made by Dave Hammond. Seconded by Blunt White. All in favor.

Old Business:

Economic Clusters:

- a. Restaurant / Entertainment / Events
 - i. Motion to approve letter of support for Velvet Vine Restaurant made by Kevin Bowdler. Seconded by Blunt White. All in Favor.
- b. Agriculture / Aquaculture
 - i. Motion to approve letter to Mid Atlantic Fisheries Management Committee. Approved with the following suggestions:
 1. Condense the letter and make it clearer as to what we are asking
 2. Limit the scope to one or two species
 3. Add some numbers around these species
 4. Have Rob Simmons as signatory, cc other elected officials and maybe try for a press release.Action: KB, WS and DC
 - ii. No action required for support of Agricultural Heritage District as it had been approved the previous evening by the PZC
- c. Tourism – Lodging
 - i. RESOLUTION: Motion to write a letter indicating a finding of fact that Short Term rentals are a net economic benefit to Stonington for the 12/20 STR workshop. Proposed by Blunt White, seconded by Kevin Bowdler and all in favor.

New Business:

Continued strawman discussion of rewriting zoning regulations for TC80 and Flood Zone:

Flood Zone: Agreed that it would make sense to find a person or group of people in the private sector who would sponsor a text amendment to change the lookback period for substantial improvements from five years to one year.

TC-80: Discussed many exciting options to make the redevelopment of the Golden triangle a worthwhile investment opportunity for developers; the economic potential of this area could be triple the tax revenue realized now. These ideas included:

- Trailways that could connect the Golden triangle hotels with the Aquarium, the Seaport, downtown Mystic, Coogan farm and the train station
- Bus/Water taxi between the golden triangle, Seaport and downtown Mystic.
- Create a gateway to welcome visitors to Mystic
- Landscape a boulevard on Coogan Boulevard.
- Re-orientate and allow construction of mixed use buildings so that they face Coogan Boulevard

Adjournment at 8:15pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Hammond, Chairman
Economic Development Commission

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dave Hammond", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Hammond, Chairman
Approved January 18, 2017