



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

COMMISSIONERS

Dave Hammond
Chairman

Kevin Bowdler
Vice Chairman

Blunt White
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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, January 18, 2017

Human Services Building

166 South Broad Street, Pawcatuck, CT

Present: Dave Hammond, Kevin Bowdler, Virginia Abernathy, Rich Balestracci, Pete Robinson

Regrets: Suzanne Lane, Joel Valenti, Danielle Chesebrough, Ed Planeta, Mark Dupont, Blunt White, Ward Smith

Guests: Jason Vincent

1. Meeting called to order at 7:06 p.m.
2. Approval of prior Minutes was deferred until end of meeting when quorum was present.
3. Comments from the public: None.
4. Comments from the Planning Department:
 - Perkins Farm project was approved at P&Z on Tuesday January 17th.
 - Mystic Color Labs project (Greylock Property Group) will present a Master Plan to the P&Z in February. ACTION (Dave): invite Greylock to the February EDC meeting to present the economic benefits leading to an EDC recommendation to PZC.
 - The Planning Department is working on a report summarizing the department's accomplishments in 2016. The Planning Department was involved in working on projects valued at \$167MM of which \$45MM reached completion in 2016 and were issued a Certificate of Occupancy.
 - A group of Town employees have been meeting with tenants and landlords on Mechanic Street to discuss the hurricane barriers. It is estimated that the cost to complete the analysis is \$100K; remediation costs, if any, are TBD. FEMA certification would potentially remove the area within from the flood plain, decreasing insurance costs and making investment more attractive. Discussion pursued whether EDC could help evaluate this project by performing a cost benefit study.
 - Two buildings in downtown Pawcatuck were given P&Z approval for variances on Tuesday, January 17th to complete 2nd floor apartments. The mill behind the 'New London Day' office is being demolished to make that property more attractive for investment. This activity led to a discussion about the benefit of conducting an outreach meeting with interested parties. A few outcomes are possible:

- a. Create a strawman for downtown Pawcatuck zoning. ACTION (Dave): invite Keith Brynes to the February EDC meeting to provide input for the strawman he is working on.
- b. Update the Urban Redevelopment Study that was completed in 2005
- c. Advocate to change the lookback period from 5 to 1 year.

5. Economic Clusters:

It was agreed the clusters as outlined in the excel spreadsheet were a good start. We propose the following owners for each cluster and recommend that each group find additional interested parties to join their group.:

Agriculture/Aquaculture: Ward Smith, Danielle Chesebrough

Marinas: Kevin Bowdler, Virginia Abernathy

Manufacturing: Pete Robinson, Ed Planeta

Retail: Suzanne Lane

Tourism-Lodging: Virginia Abernathy

Tourism-Attractions: Joel Valenti, Mark Dupont

Restaurant, Entertainment, Events: Kevin Bowdler Danielle Chesebrough

Eldercare: Dave Hammond

Real Estate Residential & Commercial: Rich Balestracci

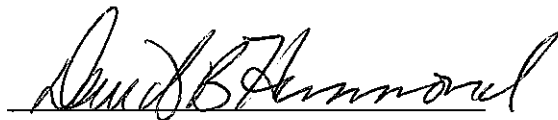
ACTION (all): each team is to set up a meeting with Jason Vincent to brainstorm the relevant data to be collected for each cluster and ideas as to where this data might be available. At our next meeting, we will discuss each cluster and where each team needs help from a contact or data perspective. The Cluster spreadsheet is stored on the EDC google doc drive where it can be shared by all. We can envision holding outreach meetings with people in Stonington who have a vested interest in each specific cluster.

6. New Business – Not discussed.

7. Motion to approve the minutes of prior meetings: December 7, 2016 and January 12, 2017 as written was made by Dave Hammond. Seconded by Virginia Abernathy. All in favor.

5. Adjournment at 9:02pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Hammond, Chairman
Economic Development Commission



Dave Hammond, Chairman
Approved February 15, 2017