CULTURAL DISTRICTS (ESTABLISHMENT OF/COMMISSION)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT, PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURAL DISTRICTS.

WHEREAS, the Town of Stonington, including the Borough of Stonington (hereinafter "Town") is fortunate to have many cultural facilities, activities and assets within its limits; both for profit and nonprofit; and

WHEREAS, the areas of the Town where said cultural facilities, activities and assets are located are walkable, compact areas that are easy for visitors to recognize; and

WHEREAS, the areas of the Town where said cultural facilities, activities and assets are located are places where community members congregate, and visitors may enjoy said facilities, activities and assets; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut Public Act 19-143 authorizes the Town to establish a municipal Cultural District; and

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to establish two Cultural Districts.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF STONINGTON IN LAWFUL TOWN MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. That the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Stonington be amended by adding a new ordinance to read as follows:

A. There is hereby established within the Town of Stonington, two Cultural Districts which shall have the following physical boundaries:

1. Stonington Village Cultural District - Beginning and including 22 Bayview Avenue, where the Velvet Mill is located, going west to the intersection of Bayview Avenue and Elm Street, turn left, south on Elm Street, west on Cutler Street, to the intersection of Water Street, turn left, south over the viaduct on Water Street, then continue south through the business area to the Stonington Point, including the historic lighthouse and museum. When leaving the point go north until able to turn right at Cannon Square, then left onto Main Street. At High Street turn left (west) to 1 High Street, the location of the historic Town Dock (which is included) then return on High Street to the intersection with Water

Street and to the north with the viaduct again. It is assumed that properties located on both sides of streets are included in the district. One unusual feature of this district is the elevated pedestrian walkway over the railroad tracks which is accessed at the intersection of Elm Street and Cutler Street. On the south side of the tracks, Elm Street continues to the intersection of Main Street.

2. Mystic Bridge Cultural District - Beginning at the Mystic Seaport, located at 75 Greenmanville Ave on Route 27, going south, then turn right onto Holmes Street, then at the intersection of Route 1, turn east (left) going through the business area and around the round-about continue on Route 1 to the Mystic train station. At the intersection of Route 27 go north (left) to finish the triangle shaped district, ending back at the Mystic Seaport. It is assumed that properties located on both sides of streets are included in the district.

B. The Town, through its Cultural District Commission, shall prepare a map, which shall show the boundaries of each of the Cultural Districts set forth in Subsection A of this ordinance, and shall identify and inventory all cultural assets located within said Districts, which assets shall include but not be limited too, all cultural facilities, artistic spaces, creative businesses, historic sites and locations of cultural activities, both indoor and outdoor.

C. The Town hereby establishes a Cultural District Commission to satisfy the following requirements:

1. It shall be made up of a minimum of seven (7) members, at least six (6) of whom must represent the Town's arts and culture community, and at least four (4) of whom must live or work within the Cultural Districts described in Subsection A of this ordinance. At its inception, two (2) members shall be appointed for one-year terms, two (2) members shall be appointed for two-year terms, and three (3) members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms.

2. As reasonably possible, the members should include a representative of the following categories: a member from a local cultural or arts council; a member from an historical society, museum or ethnic heritage organization; an artist who lives or works in one of the two Districts; a local business owner; and a for-profit creative business.

3. Provide annual reports to the Board of Selectmen and the Borough Warden and Burgesses.

D. Powers. The Cultural District Commission shall carry out the provisions of Public Act 19-143 in promoting the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the marketing of arts and culture attractions, the encouragement of artists and artistic and cultural enterprises and the promotion of tourism. Additionally, the Commission shall be authorized to consult and collaborate with the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development and regional service organizations for any assistance, and shall be authorized to apply for or solicit and accept any grant contribution, gift, bequest, devise or other donation from any source, provided that all requirements of the Town Charter are followed for purposes of accepting and appropriating said funding.

E. Duties and Procedures. In addition to the Powers set forth in Subsection D herein, Cultural District Commission shall develop goals and objectives for the Districts, management plan, a cultural assets maps and inventory, a marketing plan in conjunction with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, and a list of goals and success measures for the Districts.

Section 2.

A. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

B. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of any other part of this ordinance that can be given affect without the invalid provisions or applications; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance and the various applications thereof are declared to be severable.

B. This ordinance shall become effective fifteen (15) days after Notice of its passage is duly published in a newspaper having a general circulation in the Town of Stonington.

Adopted: February 27, 2023
Effective: March 18, 2023