



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

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Cullen Hagan**  
Chairman

**Elsie Bisset**  
Vice Chairman

**Virginia Abernathy**  
Member

**Hannah Cedermark**  
Member

**Charles Clew**  
Member

**Don Fiore**  
Member

**Christopher Smith**  
Member

**Stephen Bessette**  
Member

**Sarah Welch**  
Member

*The EDC's mission is to advance the Town's economic prosperity; foster equitable and sustainable growth; and champion a thriving community.*

**MINUTES**

**Special Meeting**

**Tuesday, December 19, 2023, 6:00 pm**  
**SPS District Office – Room 103, 40 Field St, Pawcatuck, CT**

Attending: EDC: Kevin Bowdler, Cullen Hagan, Don Fiore, Sarah Welch, Elsie Bisset, Chris Smith, Stephen Bessette; DoP: Susan Cullen. Four members of the public.

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm
- 2) A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 21st Special meeting. Motion: KB, Second EB, **All in Favor**
- 3) **New Business**
  - a) Bruce Flax from the Mystic Chamber of Commerce was not able to attend the meeting. He will hopefully attend the January meeting.
  - b) The 2024 EDC Budget has been submitted. It was recommended by Susan Cullen that members of the EDC attend the relevant BoF meeting to advocate for the EDC budget. It is not known what date in Feb/March the meeting will be. Elsie and Don offered to attend providing they are available.
  - c) Cullen Hagan updated the group on his conversations with READCO about their proposed development on Route 2 in Pawcatuck. EDC has invited READCO to attend an EDC meeting when the timing makes sense for them.

**Department of Planning Update.** Susan Cullen advised that the final signoffs were given on the Pawcatuck sidewalk project. She also advised that her position has been eliminated & that this will be her last EDC meeting.

**Old Business**

- a) One new EDC member's application has been received and we are having discussions with two more potential candidates. If all these applications come through, the EDC will be fully staffed. EB thanked Kevin Bowdler and Suzanne Lane for their years of service on EDC.
- b) Chris Smith gave an update on the Stonington Gateway project goals. See attached project sheet.
- c) Reviewed status on the attached project sheet.

**Public Comment** – None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Bowdler

**EDC  
Projects  
Status Report as of December 2023**

| 2023 Project Initiatives                           | Key Objectives   | EDC                       | Accomplishments / Latest Progress  | Next Steps  |
|--|--|---------------------------|--|---|
| Comprehensive Zoning Update                        | Provide Economic Development-specific recommendations.   | Don                       | Ongoing  | Phase 2 of the zoning update began with a public workshop on November 28, 2023 in regard to environmental resource protection, sustainability and resiliency. Info obtained from the public during this meeting being used by FHI Studio to assist in Phase 2 of the rewrite. Workshop PZC virtual meeting scheduled for December 20, 2023 at 7PM to review and discuss recommendations from November 28th meeting. More public workshops will be held throughout 2024. |
| Communications/Marketing / Branding                | email blasts every 4 to 6 weeks to inform and educate; Stonington video; EDC Social Media                                | Sarah/Stephen             | Several new posts added and scheduled across platforms. Next blast WE 12/22.   | KB to follow up with Sam Greenfield for next version of marketing video that incorporates the feedback from the November meeting.<br><br>EDC members: make sure you're subscribed to our email list and facebook and instagram feeds. When it feels organic (i.e. you are excited and want people to know), please share / like / comment to help get more eyes on our posts.   |
| Stonington Gateways: Exits 90, 91, 92, Mechanic St | Exits 90, 91, 92 "Welcome" Gateway.  | Chris/Hannah              | Key goals for 2024: (1) inventory existing signage in Stonington with focus on exits 90, 91, 92 and primary Town roads; (2) Focus on gardening initiatives using native plants to enhance 'sense of place'; (3) explore/execute art-as-signage or art-as-placemaking project engaging community. (HC & CS) | Meet with Chris Greenlaw, the Town engineer re the ownership of all public properties near the exits<br><br>Susan Cullen and Frank DeSantis have been in touch re possibilities for the Campbell Grain Building   |
| Higher-Potential Property Analysis.                | Partner with Town and property   | Cullen/Chris              |  |   |
| Business Outreach                                  | Continue outreach to support new and EDC representative  | Suzanne/Virginia          | Database of businesses has been developed, facilitating communication, and resides on the G April. EDC voted to contribute \$150 towards advertising Bike to Work month.   | No December update  |
| Establish bikeways                                 | EDC representative to support Bike   | Don                       |  | No December update  |
| Developer/Business/Investor Liaison                | EDC Representative who can be on call  | Elsie                     |  | No activity to report   |
| New Business Welcome & Support                     | Reach out to newly registered  | Virginia/Charles/Stephen/ | Attend Chamber Meet & Greet  | No December update  |
| Promote Pawcatuck                                  | EDC Representative who can be on call  | Sarah, Don, Chris         |  | No December update  |
| Promote Fishing / Town Dock                        | Partnering with SNEFLA to promote fishing  | Charles/Hannah            | Thomas Mitchell has outlined three project ideas that could be EDC Objectives for promoting Fisheries and Town Dock.   | Joe Gilbert and other other Fisheries related personnel will attend a future EDC meeting to discuss the three areas of interest.  |
| Donahue Park Ext / Riverwalk                       | complete survey and permitting; conceptual design; quotes for engineering / construction; explore financing alternatives | Cullen                    | Cullen and Susan met with DEEP who advised that this is a BIG project. They are concerned about coastal resiliency. The Army Corp of Engineers need to be engaged. This project will bubble along.   | No December update  |