

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting
January 20, 2011

Members Present: Blunt White, Paul Burgess, Wendy Bury, Peter Glankoff, Robynne Madison, Ed Hart, Ed Planeta and Daniel Barber . **Members Absent:** Nat Arata, Dan Oliverio. Meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Chairman Blunt White. Dan Barber agreed to act as Secretary for the meeting.

Chairman White made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of November 18th, so moved by Paul Burgess, seconded by Robynne Madison and accepted by all members.

Old Business:

EDC Website: discussion was led by Wendy Bury and continued with a focus on additions and reciprocal links. Adding the word "Mystic" to the sub text was discussed to see if that would result in increased traffic.

Signage Regulations: Changes before the PZC were discussed. Chairman White mentioned that no decision has yet been made and commented on the slow process of the PZC in this regard. Wendy Bury suggested that business owners attend the PZC hearings to express their positions regarding the proposed regulations.

Solutions For Stonington: Members discussed ideas for a new approach to the presentation to be hosted by the town in the spring. Several members endorsed a "Panel Discussion". Wendy Bury supports having a successful small business owner speak on their formula for success amid obstacles. Ed Planeta enjoyed the interactive energy that existed at last years SWOT analysis format.

Wastewater Facilities: No report was made

Tourism Marketing: Members discussed the impact of the tourism industry as an economic engine for the town providing a source of traffic for smaller business, hotels, etc. A general discussion took place regarding the proposed "hotel Tax" with most members in favor as it is used in many destinations.

2014 POCD: Chairman White reported that he is seeking funds from the town and other sources for professional assistance in the EDC's contribution to the revised POCD in 2014

Yardney Retention: No new news was provided.

New Business:

2011 Meeting Schedule: Chairman White made a motion to approve a regular meeting schedule for 2011 of the third Thursday of the month, 9 times per year, every month except July, August and December. Motion seconded by Paul Burgess, all present voted in favor.

EDC Budget: for FY 2011 – 2012 remains unchanged from previous FY, no further comment

Election of Chairman and Secretary: Motion made by Ed Hart to elect Blunt White as Chairman was seconded by Paul Burgess and all present voted in favor. No vote was taken for Secretary.

New Members: Two vacancies exist. Chairman White has received an application from Amy Arruda, a Vice President with the Washington Trust Company that lives in Pawcatuck.

Respectfully submitted
Blunt White, Chairman

