

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Special Meeting
February 17, 2011

Members Present: Paul Burgess, Wendy Bury, Robynne Madison, Ed Hart, Ed Planeta Dan Oliverio and Daniel Barber. Members Absent: Nat Arata, Peter Glankoff and Blunt White.
Guests In attendance were prospective EDC member Amy Arruda and Michael Blair. Ed Planeta acted as chair for the meeting on the request of Chairman White who was unable to attend. The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Acting Chairman Planeta.

Acting Chair Planeta made a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting of January 20th, so moved by Paul Burgess, seconded by Robynne Madison and accepted by all members.

First Selectman Ed Haberek joined the meeting. Mr. Haberek reported that he has been continuing to work to attract business to Stonington including a Westerly based Electrical contracting and construction company, continued talks with the owners of the Stop & Shop Plaza in Pawcatuck and potential tenants for the Vacca Tire building in Pawcatuck.

Old Business:

EDC Website: No major changes have been made to the website, continued discussion on adding individual property listings at the request of the property owners. Ed Hart questioned the need for the website as it has low traffic but mentioned that it needs additional buzz words and content to place it higher on search engines. Additions to the site that were discussed including active news feeds and links to Patch, a growing local news blog.

Signage Regulation: Discussion regarding stakeholders and business people including members of the Mystic Chamber to attend the next PZC meeting on the subject (3/1).

Solutions for Stonington: A date in late May 2011 is currently planned.

Wastewater Facilities: No report was made

Tourism Marketing: Wendy Bury discussed the Governor's draft budget which eliminates our local tourist district funding and suggested that EDC write a letter of support for local small tourism marketing organizations.

2014 POCD: A guest of the EDC, Michael Blair, Principal of HMS Real Estate presented ideas for growth along the largely undeveloped Exit 91 area and the Taugwonk Road Light Industrial Districts.

Yardney Retention: No new news was provided.

New Business:

Cottrell Brewing: At the 2/15/2011 meeting PZC approved a text amendment to the M1 zone allowing Cottrell Brewing to sell beer to people touring their facility. All in attendance agreed that it was a positive thing for Cottrell.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

~ Minutes prepared 3/17/2011



Blunt White, Chairman EDC