

**Town of Stonington  
Economic Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes, March 14, 2013  
Human Services Building - 7:00pm**

**Present:** Ed Planeta, Amy Arruda, Wendy Bury, Les Bray, Dan Oliverio, Ed Hart

**Absent:** Blunt White

**Town Guests:** 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Ed Haberek

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**Call to Order:** 7:05 pm

**Approval of February 14, 2013, Minutes:**

Motion: Wendy Bury

Second: Les Bray

**Old Business**

- M1 zone – Commission Member Ed Planeta, filling in for Chairman Blunt White, reported that he and Commission Member Wendy Bury toured the Yardney facility. Planeta confirmed that PZC will hold a workshop for the M1 initiative on April 16 presented by Glenn from Planimetrics. Commission Member Hart questioned any concerns surround parking/traffic at Yardney in correlation with the zone change. Commission Member Planeta said he'd share that with Chairman White to make sure that will not be an issue. No update if there will be additional cost surrounding Planimetrics presentation on April 16.
  - 2014 POCD – Commission Member Bury reported that the next meeting is on Monday. They are looking to take a step back and regroup. POCD Initiatives – Further discussion followed, led by Commission Member Bury concerning how to address POCD's request for EDC to provide a list of strategies for LI 130; How are we enabling businesses to come here? Can we do better? What are our strategies for the Grand List?
  - Budget remains the same as last month, \$3,750.
  - EDC Website – Commission Member Amy Arruda reported there were 398 additional hits since last month's meeting. She will look into seeing if she can see what are from full website vs. mobile use.
  - Business Outreach follow up – Commission Member Ed Hart suggested we identify a list of projects/properties; such as, that should be listed on the website as a premium property listing.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Ed Haberek reported that still no new update on Liberty Crossing vacancies.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Haberek announced that the adjusted Grand List dropped for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in 50 years by 19% due mostly to Real Estate.
- Tourism Marketing – Commission Member Bury attended the CT Statewide Tourism Marketing meeting and reported that their budget is back up to \$15 million. The CSTM also reported revenue of \$11.5 billion, with 40% derived from southeast CT region. Commission Member Bury added that tourism, as are businesses, is being viewed as economic development.

## New Business

- Secretary for EDC meeting minutes – Commission Member Arruda announced that Stonington High School was interested in providing 2 students as interns for next September she will loop back in August. In the interim, Andrea Carey has volunteered to take the minutes through the June meeting.
- TRCC Student Intern – Commission Member Arruda contacted a professor at Three Rivers to recruit college students to do work for EDC's mapping and inventory of all the businesses. Professor Mayer was interested in pursuing this and offering the internship to students for college credit. Commission Member Bray suggested we take advantage of his GIS database. He will meet with Commission Members Bury and Arruda to review his database he currently has that the future student could then work off of. The purpose is to develop a display in a mapping format to easily and visually identify the vacancies and current businesses in Stonington and also categorize the businesses to assess where and what new businesses could best fit in.
- Commission Member Arruda suggested we think about a way of joining vacant businesses with entrepreneurs. Discussion was around the use of the inventory/mapping and looking at ways to collaborate these two initiatives.
- Discussion followed that Stonington EDC invite Groton, North Stonington, and Westerly, RI, EDCs to share and exchange ideas. 1<sup>st</sup> Selectman Haberek remarked that Westerly had shown interest since last year to meet with Stonington EDC.
- Commission Member Bury made a motion that we put forth 3 initiatives:
  1. Build a business inventory with the potential use of the TRCC student
  2. Work with vacancies and showcase on EDC website
  3. Initiate joint EDC meetings with Groton, North Stonington, and Westerly, RI

Second: Commission Member Les Bray

Accepted: 6

Opposed: 0

- Social Media – Commission Member Bury, as administrator of EDC Facebook page, (initially created in 2011 by Ed Hauber) requested feedback as to what information to include on the page. Commission Member Planeta recommended we at least include the yearly EDC schedule, agendas, minutes, names of members, and to welcome the public to attend. Commission Member Bray recommended we link it to EDC's webpage. All were in agreement with the exception of Commission Member Hart. The link for facebook will also be added to the EDC website.
- CNAATCP – Commission Member Bury asked permission for her to explore the possibility of Stonington to participate in the CT Neighborhood Assistant Act Tax Credit Program which awards tax credits to businesses who make cash investments to qualifying community programs. There was agreement to research further based on some information that Stonington did participate in the early 90's.
- EDC Commission Member Vacancies – Commission Member Planeta reminded the members that we have 2 Commission Member vacancies and 2 alternate Commission Member vacancies. It was decided by the members that we invite prospective replacements to attend a meeting.

**Adjournment:** 9:01 pm

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Carey

Approved 4/10/2013  
Blair White Chairman