

**Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2013
Human Services Building - 7:00pm**

Present: Ed Planeta, Wendy Bury, Les Bray, Amy Arruda, Dan Oliverio
Absent: Blunt White
Town Guest: 1st Selectman, Ed Haberek

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Call to Order: 7:08 pm

Approval of April 10, 2013, Minutes:
Motion: Wendy Bury
Second: Les Bray

Commission Member Ed Planeta called the meeting to order.

Old Business

- a) **Uses of M1 zone:** CM Wendy Bury reported she will meet with Rob next week to discuss status/update of M1 initiative.
- b) **New Initiatives:** CM Les Bray reported he has all the data necessary to move forward with the Inventory Mapping. We may need to purchase software for the GIS system to layer onto the Town's records. EDC needs to obtain authorization via Town's GIS. CM Bray further recommended that we incentivize the owners of the multi-tenanted buildings in order for them to cooperate to provide us information regarding their available space and for the data we need to have for accurate record keeping of the inventory mapping.

CM Amy Arruda reported she has a potential college student to work as an intern to analyze the database in return for college credit.

1st Selectman Ed Haberek will go ahead and set up a schedule for the EDCs from Westerly, Groton, and North Stonington for a joint meeting with Stonington EDC to share and exchange ideas.

- c) **POCD:** CM Wendy Bury gave a status update on the POCD (Bury is a member of the POCD group) EDC recommendations 4/23/2013 are under consideration by the POCD group. One area of discussion was open space, funding and public accessibility/use. Overall, the EDCs initiatives presented to the POCD received favorable feedback.
- d) **Budget report:** Chair White will need to confirm the recent activity under Advertising is in fact \$210.22 from the annual website fee and the remainder \$1400.00 is from Planimetrics.

- e) Website: CM Arruda reported there were 811 hits for April to May 9 on the website. Mobile statistic revealed 2 hits from Boston.
- f) Business Outreach Follow Up: CM Bury reported that the Downtown Mystic Business Association is changing its structure by applying for non profit status. 1st Selectman Ed Haberek announced that 5 businesses had gone out of business; however, several new ones are starting up. He reported that a film festival will come to Mystic run by a company from California along with Sonalysts Studios.
- g) Tourism: Mystic was chosen by Discover New England International Tourism Group to be featured in a 3-day celebration next May 2014. The CT Conference of Tourism will be held next week, hopefully, they will be announcing if any of the CT budget for tourism will actually be allocated for use.

New Business

- A special meeting may be required to encumbrance the remaining \$3039.78 from the budget to meet the June 7 deadline. CM Bray mentioned we might need to obtain a vendor for the inventory/GIS project.
- CM Planeta asked members to provide names for additional EDC members. It was agreed that each member could contact possible new members from the retail, marina, restaurant, hotel, and small business sectors and recommend at least one name by next meeting.
- CM Bray presented high points of his report on 12-month Sales Average of Single Family Houses (2012-2013). Stonington showed 30% - 40% higher sales prices compared to other area towns with sales up at every price point, and sales of housing up 39%. Very good news for Stonington.

Adjournment: 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Andrea Carey

Approved 6/13/2013
Burt White
EDC chair