

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes, Thursday October 10, 2013
Human Services Building, 7pm

Approved 4/14/2013

Present: Amy Arruda, Wendy Bury, Les Bray, Dan Oliverio, Ed Planeta Jr., Chairman
Blunt White
Absent: None

Call to order: 7:02pm by Chairman White

Motion was made to accept the minutes of the prior meeting on June 13, 2013 by Blunt White, seconded by Ed Planeta. Motion passed 6-0.

Old Business

There is a need for new Commission members. There are presently 3 vacancies for permanent positions and 3 vacancies for alternates. In addition, the terms of Dan Oliverio and Ed Planeta Jr. expire at the end of 2013. Dan Oliverio would like to transition off the EDC and Ed Planeta would like to move to an alternate position. Ed Planeta will stay on until replaced. Wendy Bury has a candidate from the biosciences community. All members will continue to look for additional candidates. Guests Glee McAnaly and Ed Haberek also will look for candidates.

2014 POCD Update: All chapters are currently being drafted. CM Bury's Economic Development chapter draft from 9-16-13 will be updated with the latest data. Debra Donovan from SECTER has been very helpful and much of her data will be incorporated into the revision. The next draft will be submitted to the Commission members before November 1. EDC members can then present any recommendations or comments to clarify consensus of the commission.

M-1 Zone Initiative - PZC is currently declining to review and is waiting for the POCD to be written before addressing. EDC tabled discussion until there is more clarity as to the make up of PZC in 2014.

Business Outreach Follow Up: Ed Haberek reported that the Brom Builders development may be close to forming an agreement with an operator. He will follow up as details become available.

Budget Report: Chairman White submitted the budget for \$4,650. Presently there are no expenses or plans to spend the balance.

EDC Website: CM Arruda reported there were 1,156 hits from June 10 to September 11 and 632 hits combined from September 12 through October 9. Chairman White submitted a table of Town of Stonington "Grand List and Property Tax Analysis." It will be added to the EDC website.

New Business

West Broad School - CM Bury reported that at the Board of Finance meeting earlier in the week there was some discussion whether EDC can assist in exploring other options for the school if it is not used for its present purpose. EDC members were unsure what the request entailed and would like clarification before considering further.

Meeting Schedule - Chairman White made a motion to continue meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm. CM Bray seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Chairman White made a motion to continue with the present regular meeting schedule of meeting all months excluding December, July and August. CM Bray seconded. White, Oliverio, Bray, Planeta and Arruda in favor. Bury opposed. Motion passed 5-1.

EDC Chamber of Commerce membership - There was a discussion whether EDC should continue membership and how it should be paid for. Ed Haberek will look into whether the town will pay for the Westerly/Pawcatuck Chamber membership. The Mystic Chamber and Eastern CT Chamber payment will be reviewed when the invoices come up. Chairman White made a motion that EDC should be a member of the Westerly/Pawcatuck, Mystic, and Eastern CT Chambers of Commerce. CM Bray seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Mel's Creamery Pawcatuck Special Meeting - CM Planeta and CM Oliverio attended. The meeting was well attended with good feedback. There were no actionable items for EDC. After the meeting CM Planeta was approached by Judd Rosen, the property manager of the Riverwalk Condominium Association, about the possibility of EDC support for facade improvements in downtown Pawcatuck. CM Planeta met with Mr. Rosen on October 5 to review options. There are presently no known funding sources. The Pawcatuck Revitalization Strategies (April 2005) report was discussed. Mr. Rosen will forward information to CM Bury and William Lyman to review whether the report can be updated and incorporated into the 2014 POCD.

Adjournment: 9:06 pm

Respectfully submitted by Edward Planeta Jr.

Approved 11/14/2013

Blair White, EDC