

Economic Development Commission Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 5:30pm

Via Zoom

Minutes

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TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH STONINGTON CT

Call to Order: Brett Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 5:41pm.

Members in Attendance: Brett Mastroianni, Nicole Porter, Will Mason and Jennifer Dayton

Members absent: Salvatore Cherenzia, Jennifer Anderson, Jennifer Strunk, Paul Simonds, Anthony Mazzella

Staff present: *Juliet Hodge

Public Present: Nita Kincaid, Selectwoman, Bob Carlson, Selectman

Public Comment: None.

Additions to the Agenda: Motion made, seconded and passed (4/0/0) to add "Future Meetings" to the agenda (B. Mastroianni/J. Dayton)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the July 6, 2021 meeting accepted as written

Treasurer's Report: None

PDZO Report: J. Hodge briefly touched on an updated site plan for the gas station being built at the rotary as well as some movement on the Kingdom of the Hawk vineyard approval from DEEP which will now allow them to get their storm water permit signed so they can continue construction.

New Business:

- a. **Future Meetings:** There was a discussion among members on whether to continue meetings solely on Zoom, have a hybrid approach or move to have all meetings in person. There was a general consensus to continue meetings solely on Zoom for the foreseeable future.
- b. **COVID Business Relief Plan:** S. Cherenzia, N. Porter and B. Mastroianni met with the Selectman to present the EDC proposed plan for use of certain dedicated funds from the town's larger covid federal relief money to be distributed to North Stonington businesses impacted by the pandemic. First Selectman, M. Urgo would like to see almost a separate program developed to create an employee sign-on bonus to attract workers seeing many local businesses described challenges with finding employment help. M. Urgo will contact SeCTer to possibly help manager this program and will report back to the EDC. The EDC members also discussed what would constitute "infrastructure" changes that businesses could use the money for. B. Mastroianni shared two other town's programs and together members decided what was appropriate for our program and how it should be worded in the grant applications.
- c. **Hiring Bonus Plan:** M. Urgo will report back to the EDC when he contacts SeCTer regarding their ability to help manage an employee sign-on bonus program for North Stonington businesses.
- d. **Update on new PDZO-Status:** B. Mastroianni and N. Porter will represent the EDC on a panel to interview candidates for the PDZO position. L. Steinbrecher and one other member of the Planning and Zoning Commission will also be on the panel. B. Carlson will represent the Selectmen.

Old Business:

- a. N/A

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 pm (W. Mason/J. Dayton) Motion carried 4-0-0.

Next EDC meeting is schedule on September 7, 2021 at 5:30p via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Porter