

EDC REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:30 P.M.

Via Zoom

Approved Minutes

(Approved 5/4/21)

Call to Order: Chairman Brett Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 5:33pm

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

Members absent: Paul Simonds, Jennifer Strunk, Stefan Grufstedt, and Anthony Mazzella (alternate).

Staff present: Juliet Hodge, PDZO

Public Comment: Carl Johnston and Ron Lewis discussed their continued concerns regarding the status of the stop sign that was thought to be temporary in front of their business, Shunock River Brewery and Café. The loss of parking spaces directly in front of the business is the focus. R. Lewis also stressed that as he has purchased the Hescoc building, more parking in the future may be needed.

Additions to the Agenda: Motion was made and seconded (B. Mastroianni/J. Dayton) to add presentation from seCTer to the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2021 Regular Meeting and March 30, 2021 Special Meeting minutes were accepted as written.

Presentation from seCTer: Executive Director, Nancy Cowser and Regional Economic Development Manager, Sheri Cote gave an overview of the seCTer's tools and services they provide to businesses, municipalities, and regional Partners. Sheri Cote's position is new and will further help seCTer support the region (and pandemic recovery efforts) through marketing, grant support, site finding and other technical assistance to businesses and municipalities. seCTer has provided the EDC with a customized data report and recently assisted Tin Peddler and is working with J. Dayton on the IT Workforce Training Center initiative. seCTer recently received an additional \$2M in funding for their Loan program as well as additional funding to support Economic Development initiatives. They urged the EDC members to participate in the upcoming planning process to update the CEDS and to let businesses know about their loan programs and other services.

Treasurer's Report: J. Hodge shared the most recent profit and loss statement with the Commission. The most recent activity involved the charges to renew the website domain name.

PDZO Report: Committee reviewed J. Hodge's activity report. Some of the topics discussed:

- Reval issues with new classifications of land and land uses.
- Recent letter to the CT Siting Council re: proposed Solar Project off Rte. 184
- Work on developing new criteria for converting seasonal properties to year-round use to promote renovations to properties including investment in new septic systems and wells etc.
- New proposed increase in Building Fees
- Enforcement issues
- Rte. 2 Commercial District landscaping/Streetscape Plan
- Regional Water Supply – Commission discussed the water-line extension work that has been on-going.

New Business:

- a. NSAHC Flyer: W. Mason discussed an initiative of NSAHC to create a flyer to be given to Realtors to hand out to clients looking for homes in North Stonington. One of the goals of the NSAHC is to get our percentage of Affordable Housing up to a number sufficient to earn a 4-yr moratorium by promoting CHFA and USDA loan programs. Houses financed under these programs “qualify” as affordable homes. He suggested that the EDC join the initiative by advertising local businesses or their buy local campaign or provide a link to the business directory.

Old Business:

- a. Zoom Event for Local Businesses: The event is planned for 4/26 at 6pm. The Flyer is being finalized and the Chamber has a link to sign up on their webpage. Commission members were asked to come up with a few questions to get the conversation going for the event.
- b. Update on potential Facility for Workforce Development/IT Training Program in NS by J. Dayton: The Town is applying for grant funding through a recently announced funding program to further this initiative.
- c. Buy Local Campaign: No update given
- d. Business List/Directory: No update given

Motion to adjourn at 6:44 pm (S. Cherenzia/W. Mason) Motion carried

Next EDC meeting is scheduled on April 20, 2021 at 5:30p via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Porter & Juliet Hodge