

EDC REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 5:30pm

Via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order: Brett Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

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

Members Absent: Anthony Mazzella (alternate), Stefan Grufstedt, Jennifer Strunk (alternate)

Staff Present: Juliet Hodge, PDZO

Public Present: Shawn Murphy, Nita Kincaid arrived at 6:15

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Not done

Additions to the Agenda: None

Treasurer's Report: The memberships to the Chamber of Commerce and seCTer were submitted and paid.

PDZO Report: J. Hodge briefly discussed the following:

- Plans for a 2nd warehouse at 75 Frontage Rd.
- P+Z will be reviewing Salt Water Vineyard's Plan for the proposed Wedding Barn on 113 Pendleton Hill Rd.
- Tin Peddler (groceries) in the old Subway building, opening in the next few months
- Jovial Foods has met some resistance from the State Historic Preservation Office regarding their historic tax credits application for renovations to the former Randall's Ordinary buildings. J. Hodge has been in touch with Ayanti Grant from Congressman Courtney's Office to ask for assistance.
- B. Mastroianni questioned whether Fox Run Inn has current tenants...as there were lights on. J. Hodge unsure.
- Inn at Lower Farm is set to open as a B&B in the near future. There will be an open house on Oct. 10.
- There is someone interested in a large agricultural parcel of land on Pinewoods Rd for a vineyard
- Brett questioned what is happening with the clearing of the agricultural parcel of land on the right hand side of Wintechog Rd. Juliet was not sure.
- Sam Cherenzia gave an update on his plans to create a campground on his property near the Dollar General.

New Business: None, although B. Mastroianni stated that Pam Potemri will be added to next meeting's agenda to discuss her Food Truck initiative.

Old Business

Buy Local Campaign: The campaign initiative was delayed due to B. Mastroianni's surgery. He plans to start phone calls to local business's tomorrow. A wipeable sign will be created for each participating business for customers to take a picture with and then post on their social media pages, tagging the business. The EDC will then review businesses posts and gather names to enter into the drawing. Jennifer Anderson

discussed the “Business Spotlight” where she envisions gathering the answers to a few specific questions and creating a post on social media highlighting a specific business each week.

Strategic Plan Edits: J. Dayton made a presentation after reviewing the seCTer report about adding “employment” to the EDC’s strategic plan’s mission statement. Her suggestion is to create an IT Technical Training Center in North Stonington, which would create a business opportunity, give our residents and those around North Stonington a chance to further or create a career and have a low impact on the rural character of our town. B. Mastroianni like the idea and suggested J. Dayton collaborate with J. Hodge on the details. B. Mastroianni did not think we should change the mission statement, however as that is a much bigger process.

N. Porter left at 6:15pm

POCD Survey: J. Hodge had not received any comments about suggested changes to the 2013 POCD Survey questions in preparation for resending it out to the residents. The Commission will aim to have the survey available in January and include a link in the quarterly.

Other general comments: B. Mastroianni stated that he had met with M. Urgo and that they had discussed several initiatives and were planning to schedule a joint All Boards and Commission Chair meeting to discuss various topics in an effort to ensure we were all on the same page. Initiatives include having renderings done for key properties and the utility Extension into the existing Water/Sewer District as identified in the POCD. J. Hodge discussed the water utility extension progress and the importance of being proactive in the process – even if it is fully funded privately.

seCTer Date Report: Commission members discussed their thoughts about the data and ways to present the data to the Town Boards and Commissions given COVID restrictions on events. Most agreed that the data could be organized by topic and each Commission/Board would get a mini-report of sorts with the information specific to their “area.” They could discuss it at a Commission meeting and bring questions and comments to a larger virtual event for all the Boards and Commissions. Each smaller report would be put together to make up the full presentation that would of course include an overview of the Key data points etc. Commission members discussed timing for the virtual event and decided to aim for the 1st week in December rather than wait until the spring – as the data could be used to support budget requests.

Motion made and seconded (P. Simonds/S. Cherenzia) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.

Next regular meeting is October 20, 2020 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Porter & Juliet Hodge