

EDC REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 5:30pm

Via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 5:33pm.

Members in Attendance: Brett Mastroianni, Nicole Porter, Jennifer Dayton, Will Mason, Salvatore Cherenzia, Jennifer Strunk (alternate), Jennifer Anderson.

Members Absent: Anthony Mazzella (alternate), Stefan Grufstedt, and Paul Simonds,

Staff Present: Juliet Hodge, PDZO

Public Present: Nita Kincaid, Selectman, Bob Carlson, Selectman, Mike Uργο, First Selectman.

Public Comment: None.

Additions to the Agenda: Motion made and seconded (S. Cherenzia/J. Dayton) to add approval of the minutes to the agenda. Motion passed.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: Minutes approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: The only recent spend was the items for the baskets for the Buy Local Initiative. The Commission reviewed with no changes.

PDZO Report: Juliet updated the Commission on the Briedinger's request to have events both inside the barn and outside. Jake's Restaurant will be reopening within a week. Jovial Foods was awarded a historic preservation grant to be used to restore/renovate the former Randall's Ordinary building. The vineyard at the Old Crider Farm has completed preliminary design of event barn. A bakery out of Westerly is renovating the old Tim Horton's shop. There is a food truck owner who may be interested in the old Subway building.

New Business

seCTer Report: There was a discussion around setting a meeting up with the other boards and commissions to present the seCTer Report. J. Hodge suggests everyone read the report so we could have an informed discussion.

August 4th Meeting: W. Mason made a motion to cancel the August 4th meeting. The motion was not seconded and instead, the commission made a decision to wait closer to the date to see if a quorum would be obtained to have the meeting.

Old Business

Buy Local Campaign: All presents have been purchased. We need to decide if we want 4 larger baskets or 7 smaller ones. An entry form will need to be created. B. Mastroianni will contact N. Porter and J. Dayton and together they will split the list of North Stonington businesses and contact them for their interest in the program. B. Mastroianni suggested inviting the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce to our next meeting.

COVID 19 Updates and related issues: B. Mastroianni suggested a posting a more positive message about local businesses on the EDC website to encourage people in town not to discredit local businesses during this pandemic as they are trying their best to comply with all the challenging regulations.

Strategic Plan Discussion: The Commission continued a discussion from last meeting regarding the strategic plan of the commission in the coming year. J. Hodge suggested we eliminate the business beautification initiative and add the Buy Local campaign instead. B. Mastroianni suggested more all boards and commissions meetings and possibly a meeting with the Stonington EDC. W. Mason stated he knows a Pawcatuck landscape architect that may be able to do some renderings of what some local business possibilities may look like.

Adjourn: Motion made and seconded (W. Mason/S. Cherenzia) to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:33pm.

Next regular meeting is August 4, 2020 at 5:30pm via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Porter & Juliet Hodge