

REGUL EDC MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 AT 5:15PM
TOWN OFFICES AT HOLY GREEN PLAZA

APPROVED MINUTES

B. Mastroianni called the Meeting of the EDC to order at 5:25pm. The meeting was considered an Executive Meeting as there was not a full quorum of members, but three Commission Officers were present.

Member in Attendance were: *Brett Mastroianni, David Isom, Toulia Balestracci, Lisa Wood*

Members absent: Paul Simonds, Salvatore Cherenzia, Dugan Tillman-Brown, George Tattersall

Staff present: Juliet Hodge, PDZO

Public in attendance: Nita Kincaid, James Dodd

Public Comments: James Dodd from Impact Designs discussed the options available for a town map. The Voluntown Trail Map & Guide 2017 was distributed as an example. The purpose of the map, production timeline, costs to making a map and initial start-up costs were discussed. The Commission would determine which town features, trails, businesses should be highlighted, as well as whether to promote the proximity of the town to nearby attractions or larger urban centers. Logistics involve creating a promotional flyer and a letter of support from the committee to distribute to potential advertisers (local businesses). The main goal of the map would be to promote local businesses, some quality of life assets, and any other assets/development areas the Commission felt important to highlight. Committee to vote on this in the next meeting.

Minutes: Commission did not review any minutes

Treasurer Report: Commission did not discuss

New Business:

1. **Ordinance Revisions** - Discussion about changing the by-laws to increase expenditure limit from current \$50 to over \$100 before May town meeting.
2. **Welcome Town Signage** - M. Urgo ordered "Schools of Distinction" signs to go under the existing Welcome to North Stonington signs. Need an estimate for welcome signs at the rotary and I-95S off ramp that would include installation and landscaping costs.
3. **Business Beautification Initiative** - Discussion to work with businesses on improving curb appeal. Could be a matching grant program to purchase plantings or signage (façade improvement?). Could also work with the Garden Club for help with the actual plantings etc.
4. **PDZO Activity Report**

- J. Hodge discussed several new prospective businesses considering locations in the ED District. These included:
 - F. Rauch – in application process to build a car and equipment repair and machine shop on route 49.
 - S.Pecher's indoor agricultural facility and a medical marijuana dispensary on route 2.
 - Possible indoor water park
 - Farm-brewery and associated retail, restaurant and accommodations.
- Reviewed underutilized commercial parcels
- J. Hodge to invite representatives from seCTer, PTAP and SBA to our next meeting to discuss loan programs and government contracting

Old Business:

1. **Year-round Farmer's Market** - B.Mastrianni and D.Isom to reach out to B.Casadei from Terra Farms about USDA grant for a potential Market Master to head the farmers' market.

Voter turnout event hosted by DTC and RTC at Hewitt Farm on June 2 or June 9. Check with Hewitt Farm if funds can be raised to build a pavilion for town use and possible farmer's market location.

2. **Budget and Annual Report** - Discussed the proposed vs. actual budget. Work on finishing the website, marketing costs, finalizing budget to present February 21, 2018. B.Mastroianni to email the web designer to upload the content to the new domain. J.Hodge to set up a meeting with a media company for marketing costs.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm

Next meeting is on March 15, 2018 at 5:15pm Town Offices at Holy Green Plaza

Respectfully Submitted,
T. Balestracci and J. Hodge