

EDC REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 5:30pm

Via Zoom Meeting

Draft Minutes

Call to Order: Brett Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

Members in Attendance: Brett Mastroianni, Nicole Porter, Will Mason, Jennifer Strunk, Jennifer Anderson.

Members absent: Paul Simonds, Stefan Grufstedt, Salvatore Cherenzia, Jennifer Dayton, Anthony Mazzella (alternate).

Staff present: Juliet Hodge, PDZO

Public Present: Robert Carlson, Selectman, Nita Kincaid, Selectwoman and Pat Lewis, PZC.

Public Comment: None.

Additions to the Agenda: B. Mastroianni suggested adding Website Domain to the agenda. The motion passed 5-0 (J. Strunk/N. Porter)

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes: February 16th minutes were approved after a spelling error was fixed by J. Hodge.

Treasurer's Report: The second set of radio ads are now showing on the expenditure report.

PDZO Report: Committee reviewed J. Hodge's activity report. J. Hodge brought to the attention of EDC members that North Stonington had over \$20 million in new construction, collected over \$180,000 in building fees and our land use fees collected will exceed last years. The following were also discussed:

1. A new solar company is interested in 147 acres spread across both sides of Providence-New London Turnpike, although only approximately 40 acres may actually have solar panels placed on them.
2. There have been multiple inquiries on different parcels of land across North Stonington lately, specifically the parcels of land surrounding the rotary for manufacturing.
3. It was noted by J. Hodge after B. Carlson inquired that progress and work at Trillium Brewery has been on hold during Covid.

New Business:

- a. **Website Domain:** B. Mastroianni noted that the fee for the Website Domain is up for renewal. The cost to renew is \$55.96 for two years. The name of the website is "Go To NoSto". The EDC site auto-forwards to the North Stonington Town website. A motion was made to pay the \$55.96 for another two years. The motion passed 5-0 (N. Porter/J. Anderson)
- b. **Zoom Event for Businesses:** The EDC discussed a zoom event for local businesses in place of the in-person reception that was discussed last year before Covid. A tentative date and time of April 26, 2021 at 5:30pm was decided. There was consensus that there should be structure to the meeting with a proposed introduction of the EDC members present as well as the goal of the event. An open forum at the end of the meeting was also noted to be beneficial. J. Hodge suggested that we enlist the assistance of the Chamber of Commerce to co-sponsor the event as well as help us put together the technical aspect of the zoom meeting. J. Hodge will reach out to a Chamber representative for guidance.

- c. EDC Subcommittees: It was discussed in order to keep moving forward on various EDC initiatives, subcommittees should form and would possibly meet on the third Tuesday of the month where we formerly had our second meeting of the month. N. Porter and J. Dayton will represent the EDC on the old Middle School building repurposing committee being formed by the Board of Selectman. B. Mastroianni also suggested an EDC subcommittee to work on the preparing for the Plan of Conservation and Development survey and the community “pre-survey” that would need to be developed and sent out to North Stonington residents for their feedback. J. Hodge and N. Porter agreed to work on that subcommittee, along with possibly other members not present if they so wished.
- d. Advance CT-Re: Marketing the Town to the Business and Real Estate Communities: J. Hodge reported that Site Finder, which is a listing of properties available is not only spotlighting CT, but they are offering free advertising for unlimited municipal properties and 5 key personal properties. J. Hodge will draft a write-up for the magazine highlighting our agricultural appeal, the easy access on and off the highway and the raw land available among other qualities that set North Stonington apart.

Old Business:

- a. Update on potential Facility for Workforce Development/IT Training program in NS (J. Dayton): There are no updates.
- b. Buy Local Campaign Update: It was suggested that the EDC wait for any further activity on this initiative until we have the zoom business event and find out how we can be of better assistance to local businesses. B. Mastroianni brought up the subject of North Stonington business gift certificates again. This will be a challenge to manage, but there may be an opportunity to get more of our businesses on the larger Westerly gift certificates, which encompass businesses in other surrounding towns.
- c. Business List/Directory: It was suggested that the updating of the Business Directory be completed with the help of an EDC subcommittee.

Motion to adjourn at 6:49 pm (N. Porter/W. Mason) Motion carried 5-0.

Next EDC meeting is schedule on April 6, 2021 at 5:30p via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Porter & Juliet Hodge