

Town of Stonington
Economic Development Commission
Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2012

Attendees: Blunt White, Paul Burgess, Wendy Bury, Amy Arruda, Ed Hart
Note: Dan Barber has submitted a letter of resignation from the
Commission

Call to order: 7:05PM

Approval of Prior Minutes: Motion by Blunt White, second by Ed Hart - Approved

OLD BUSINESS:

Amy Arruda presented the latest version of The Brochure, and entertained comments: Wendy Bury suggested including the Chambers of Commerce on the brochure with links. This inclusion would demonstrate EDC's support for the Chambers and could be referenced when EDC discusses reasons for Town paying annual Chamber fees.)

- * Ed Hart thought the Tax Collector should be added to stops for potential DBA's.
- * Amy Arruda will make changes and send out for review.

EDC WEB SITE:

- * Wendy Bury reported that last month's web site traffic was about average.
- * RFP (Amended 3/8/12 - *Letter of Solicitation*) for Web contract. Ed Hart obtained a copy of a typical town RFP, and will forward to members for review and guidance. Amy and Wendy will draft Letter of Solicitation based on template from Town RFP and send to Blunt for review.

BUSINESS OUTREACH:

- * Amy Arruda reported on discussions with Michael McQuade about the possibility of off-site signage. Ed Hart noted that the state has some on Route 184. Wendy Bury and Blunt White noted that this issue was broached during the recent signage study. Wendy Bury asked if EDC should take this on as a task.)
- * Wendy Bury reported that Eric Tivco, property manager of the Old Velvet Mill in the Borough is considering a zone change, and seeking clarity from the Borough PZC on permissible uses in rental spaces, and should be a candidate for Featured Site on the EDC web site.)
- * Ed Hart stated that he was very concerned about the manner in which BROM Builders were treated at the P&Z public hearing conducted on 2/7/12. He stated that he called the applicant on 2/8/12 and apologized, and then registered a complaint with The Board of Selectmen that evening.
- * Blunt White noted that P&Z did manage to close the public hearing that night.

Regional & Local Tourism Marketing - No action

BROM Builders Mystic Senior Living Associates - See Business Outreach

POCD

* Blunt White stated that the Seaport Marine commercial build out proposal should be considered as a POCD task. Ed Hart stated that he was surprised that EDC was just learning about the proposal, and that EDC should perhaps treat the proposal in the same way EDC handled the BROM Builders project. Blunt White stated he would contact the applicant.

* Wendy Bury proposed that EDC should consider the possibility of using local college students to perform class projects for EDC "real-world" applications.

Goals & Objectives

1. *Letter of Solicitation* for web site - Under development.
2. Business Guide - Under development.
3. Solutions for Stonington - Ed Hart asked if EDC should revisit this program and assess if it is fulfilling its intended purpose. Further discussion ensued and the Commission agreed that Chairman White should apprise the First Selectman that EDC will not lend its full support this year. It is noted that the activity for the Non Profit Organizations will proceed as planned.

New Business

* Chairman White reported that First Selectman Haberek and Administrator Vinn are investigating the possibility of the Town joining The Ledge Light Health District. The following was noted:


* A number of retail businesses, primarily restaurants, have expressed concerns about more rigorous regulations than the state plus additional fees for major events.

* It has been reported that Ledyard and North Stonington are not in favor of joining.

* Motion by Chairman White, seconded by Ed Hart, that EDC send a letter to The Board of Selectmen requesting that EDC be apprised well in advance of any vote on this proposal by the Board of Selectmen so that EDC can conduct a public hearing for interested parties. Motion approved - Four in favor - One abstention - Paul Burgess

Meeting adjourned 9:17PM

Approved March 8, 2012



Blunt White Chairman