

**Town of Stonington  
Economic Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2012  
Human Services Building 7:00pm**

**Attendance:** Blunt White, Paul Burgess, Amy Arruda, Dan Oliverio, Wendy Bury, Les Bray, Ed Planeta, Ed Hart

**Absent:** Nat Arata, Robynne Madison, Peter Glankoff

**Town Guests:** Selectman Haberek

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**Call to Order:** 7:06pm

**Approval of Prior Minutes:** June 14, 2012 and July 17, 2012

Motion: Blunt White  
Second: Paul Burgess  
All in favor

**Old Business:**

*Budget Report* – The current expenses were reviewed. Commission member Wendy Bury asked about the \$500 for postage that was paid out of last year's budget. Chairman White is going to look into it.

A motion by Chairman White was made to take \$1,100 from the current year budget to pay the remainder of the Planimetrics contract.

Motion: Blunt White  
Second: Dan Oliverio  
In Favor: 7  
Opposed: 1

*EDC Website* – The new website is up and running. No cosmetic change to the look or feel of the site. Commission member Arruda had some basic data for the activity in the site. The information will be reviewed further to provide better information at the next meeting.

*Initiative to broaden M1* - Chairman White reviewed mailing list. The following members will reach out to property owners in M1 zones sections as follows:

Zone 1 – Peter Glankoff  
Zone 2 – Ed Planeta  
Zone 3,5 – Wendy Bury  
Zone 4,8,10,11 – Blunt White  
Zone 7 – Dan Oliverio, Amy Arruda

The public meeting will be held on September 27. Press release will go out early next week. Planimetrics will have a draft of their report for EDC to review at the October EDC meeting. Planimetrics will attend that meeting to review the report with EDC.

**Business Outreach** – Selectman Haberek gave updates on the following:

- The Vacca building in at the corner of Route 1 and Mechanic Street in Pawcatuck is being worked on in anticipation of occupancy.
- Affordable housing is being discussed for a building in downtown Pawcatuck.
- Brom Builder closed on the Coogan property.
- The Town is reviewing “tax sales” versus tax foreclosures on some commercial property and vacant land.
- The Westerly Sun has completed the move of their offices to Mechanic Street. The Cherenzia Building is now fully leased.

**Regional and local tourism marketing** - Chairman White informed the commission that Nat Arata has sent a letter resigning from EDC. This leaves two vacant alternate positions.

**Summit Street Development – Harry Austin Drive** – Project currently appears to be on hold.

### **New Business:**

**Mystic Spine and Sport** – Al Furtado (owner) was present to ask for EDC's endorsement for his pending PZC application seeking to allow Health Clubs in M1 zoning districts. His text amendment is scheduled for a PZC public hearing on Tuesday 10/2. If approved Furtado plans on leasing about 5,500 sq ft of industrial space on 100 Mechanic Street to open a Cross Fit Gym. Furtado would invest about \$50,000 for equipment and leasehold improvements and would have 4-6 employees. The space he is interested in leasing has been vacant for 5 years. Since filing his PZC application Furtado has narrowed the scope of his PZC request to only pre-existing buildings. Furtado is a licensed Chiropractor with a practice in Guilford and has lived in Pawcatuck since 2010.

A motion was made by Commission member Paul Burgess to support Mystic Spine and Sport's text amendment to allow Health Clubs in pre-existing buildings in M1 zoning districts.

Motion: Paul Burgess

Second: Dan Oliverio

All members in favor

**2014 POCD** – Commission member Wendy Bury reviewed the initiatives. The 2004 POCD plan for EDC was shared. Wendy asked each of the members review the list and give input as to what should be removed, stay or added. This input was asked to be shared by the end of September. It was also suggested each of the commissions have a public input session. The November meeting may be the next best opportunity to invite the public to give input for POCD as it relates to the EDC.

Commission member Les Bray briefly reviewed recent material he sent out about Stonington real estate activities. He will continue to email this data and discuss at meetings as time permits.

**Adjournment:** 9:15pm

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Amy Arruda  
Acting Secretary

Approved 10/14/12  
Blair White  
EDC Chairman