

July 7, 2022
7:30 AM Zoom and in the Town Office
Stonington Economic and Community Development Committee
Agenda

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

Members Present: Evelyn, Chris, Kathleen, Chelsea K. Carla, Linda

1. [Minutes from June 2 meeting](#) (also attached as PDF) **PLEASE REVIEW FOR APPROVAL**
 - a. Evelyn moves to approve, Chris seconds
 - b. Minutes approved
2. **Short Term Rentals proposals** due to approaching legislative deadlines
 - a. Committee has done a really fine job, and is talking a lot about the impact of this disruptive technology on our scarce water resource
 - b. Permitting: proposal will call for two-tiers. Permit costs will cover enforcement, which will be tricky.
 - c. Proposal includes Cap on # of permits
 - d. Add occupancy limits to life safety components of permitting?
 - i. 90 gal/day per person per average. A running toilet is up to 2,000 gallons per day
 - ii. Town is losing water daily, cannot afford to buy water again
 - e. Make sure it flies by legal counsel: must be customized to be sure it is a good fit for Stonington
 - f. Education needs re STR and water usage in general:
 - i. Refrigerator magnets from Vista print? Design on Canva...
 - ii. Article in paper...flyers? Display? Social media? Focus graphically on water level?
 - iii. Display on kiosk at Hagan Dock? Also on "Vote Today" sign to put up and down? Keep updated throughout summer with real time water usage...
 1. Where does your water come from? Hydrology study...

2. Layer onto watershed education display at MCCF: develop places to point on touch wall that have to do with drinking water?
3. What does Stonington share with California? Granite shore and shallow water table — make linkages
 - iv. Can we do a “public thermometer” graphic for water use?
 - v. Must set the right tone...see flyer in tax bills...don’t want to turn people off...stuff handbills in grocery bags at market?
 - vi. New tri-fold going around – mirrors the Little Green Book
- g. Sense of urgency due to new legislation, signed by the Governor May 23, for ADU’s and also several vulnerable properties downtown. As soon as folx can start adding ADU’s if we don’t have STR ordinances in place the situation could worsen.
3. Event Review: Eggs and Issues Legislative Candidates Breakfast June 23 - what worked, what didn’t? Next steps?
 - a. Would like to do another Eggs and Issues. Choose topic with group of people; getting people together in a room creates new ideas...
 - b. Possible topics: Water? Housing? Short-term rentals? Impact of inflation on home heating and how best to respond...energy efficiency? Re-start LIHEAP sign-ups? Will there be more federal funding for this program? Transportation – the coastal bus to Ellsworth?
 - c. Transportation schedule – needs more advocacy – come to an Eggs and Issues?
4. Event Review: site visit with Zach Schmesser, staffer from Rep. Golden's office
 - a. Allen Kratz, Peninsula Tomorrow (PT) was co-host
 - b. Carla reported there were major a-ha moments at MCCF for PT folks in regard to integration of ecosystem management with social fabric of community
 - c. MCCF has submitted 2 apps for earmark process but not through Golden’s office through King and Collins...
 - d. At some point have the full delegation come down and do full transportation corridor. Also governor candidates – make the invites in summer, get them here.
 - i. Need to be talking about Offshore Wind Development. Leases are going up for sale, roadmap cmte...talk about human / environmental connections and how dependent we are on our marine related industries.

We have an opportunity to say what the cost of doing business is in Maine: if we are going to have wind here, the \$ needs to flow to our coastal communities for social and community needs just as in Alaska with fuel pipelines...PUC agreements, etc...Kathleen on MMA committee...need to ask “what wind could do for us when it comes?” craft the pathway for what we need and set up the costs...must be proactive and have a say up front...must include Hannah Pingree...

- e. Letters of support for the Causeway and Bridge – move from forever Bridge to replacement Bridge
5. Updates on the Island Nursing Home, upcoming deadline for CMS license renewal 10/22/2022
- a. Ellsworth American article came out and there will be responses from Deer Isle and others. No conversations were ever had with DI Planning Board about what is possible with the building.
 - b. Need Peninsula-wide conversation and a free sharing of public ideas and feelings
 - c. Hard deadline of 10/22 – what is minimum needed to do to save those licenses
6. Any Other Business/Members Updates and Additions
- a. Evelyn has email from Cynthia Pease, Art Teacher at high school and head of Eco Club. Request to be involved...forwarded to Linda who responded, trying to increase student civic engagement
 - b. Bowdoin students at end of August
 - i. 2 days engaged in project – intercept services? Coordinate with Coastal Studies program? Partners for this program in terms of coastal community resilience?
 - c. MCCF is in communication with a Norwegian anthropologist to study communities that are deeply culturally connected to their environment and how they are going through transformational change due to climate change...post docs working around the world...will be here January - June 2023 with family. 13-year-old attending DI-S schools...wanting to work in and be part of community. Visiting Scholar program? Town of Stonington could get a visiting lecture...
 - d. Build capacity for gathering people and people having civil discussions...
 - e. MCCF ED search status: still in process, 3 finalists.

- f. Evelyn's 1040 tax forms for state rebates: has completed 66, 98% on island. Talked with Lynne Witham about school adult ed running some sessions regarding completions of tax forms going forward.
- g. Granite Museum – a stand-alone 501C3 set up by Frank and Denie Weil in 1995. Now expanded to have Town represented on the board which will remain an independent entity. Trying to get it re-started again. Nice component of Stonington's cultural heritage Main St.