

**October 4, 2022**

**7:30 AM Zoom and in the Town Office**

**Stonington Economic and Community Development Committee**

**Minutes**

**Attending:** Chris Ross, Evelyn Duncan, Chelsea K., Kathleen Billings, Linda Nelson, Andy Chappell (after 8), Carla Guenter (after 8)

**Question:** **We are trying to get increased participation as the Town takes on more economic development activities. A change in historic meeting time may be in order. Please respond YES/NO to changing meetings to the first WEDNESDAY of the month at 8 am?**

1. [Minutes from September 8 meeting](#) (also attached as PDF) **APPROVED, moved by Evelyn, seconded by Chris**
2. **New members**
  - a. Linda has invited Andy of Fin and Fern and Jennifer Larrabee of Sunshine Seafood. Welcome, Andy, who attended his first meeting today!
  - b. Other suggestions:
    - i. New owners of Pilgrims Inn? Al.
    - ii. Morgan Witham, DI-S Adult Education?
    - iii. Morgan Eaton, Julia Zell have expressed interest and been invited
    - iv. Logan Eaton or Sarah Larrabee from Camden National, Julie Ciomei
    - v. Becca Emerson, Bar Harbor Bank and Trust
    - vi. Members of Chambers young group? Or other Chamber representation
3. **Issue/Public Meeting Follow Up**
  - a. Sept 20 Causeway and Bridge Public Emergency Management Meeting
    - i. Well attended, almost 100 people, Towns following up with DOT
  - b. Public conversation series: Health Care September 21
    - i. Well attended (24) with 15 health care workers
    - ii. Next step: workers survey to extend learnings from the in person mtg
  - c. How local businesses and individuals can best support our fishing community
    - i. Town is actively pursuing the following:

- ii. Economic resiliency study
- iii. Outreach calls and letters to congressional delegation
- iv. Support for MLA and MLU to donate funds to legal causes
- v. Rally on Fish Pier with band, fundraising, etc. **LAST WEEKEND OF OCTOBER**
- vi. Participating in NOAA scoping sessions: live in Portland next week
- vii. Seeking Letters of Support for additional public comment. **Keep repeating links to NOAA site.** Crucial for communities and businesses to be vocal. Trying to draft and make process easy – **DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 11**
- viii. Public signs of support = flags. Debating on banners, but wind tears them up. More lobster flags ordered!
- ix. Post FAQ sheet at library? Brian Langley, candidate for State Senate, left us some materials in the Town Hall front office.
- x. Losing jobs is 10x harder than creating jobs

#### **4. Economic Impact Study Next Steps**

- a. 40 people attended joint business breakfast co-sponsored by Chamber of Commerce
- b. 3 additional data gathering groups being scheduled with Camoin Associates
- c. Just conducted an intercept study, reviewed some of the results:
  - i. Most people here for the visual beauty, peace, and authenticity of the working waterfront
  - ii. Biggest need: more restaurant access. Better communication between the existing restaurants.
  - iii. Suggestion to keep this survey going all the time, promote in front of Town Hall, at Library, on Chamber etc.
  - iv. Use the data to make things a little bit easier to navigate and promote the options, that's the role of the SEDC. Maps, guides, posted on kiosk and available online
  - v. Do we have the downtown infrastructure to accommodate the additional impact on public restaurants?
- vi. Battling any negativity around term "consultant:" Fact finder, data dude, Mary Poppins?!

- vii. Need to control the media story ourselves, send in news columns
- viii. Need more things for young adults locally... Community Center? A place where young people can hang out together with a few activities...
  - ix. Pop-up events? Worked in Stonington, did not work in Deer Isle
  - x. The Library on the Lawn series with Pizza in DI was very popular
  - xi. Food trucks at baseball field
  - xii. Ball field made into more like a park: tether ball, horseshoes, port-a-potties, pickleball in summer, ice skating in winter – all of which requires maintenance
  - xiii. Collaborations – bringing data to Deer Isle selectmen and uniting efforts
  - xiv. Use of Odd Fellows Hall? Date night for young families, with child care? ICC tried this very briefly and it did not fly...the culture is not one for advance planning...why a regular schedule is so important
  - xv. Should we gather food service providers for collaborations? Restaurant week? Discount week?
  - xvi. Granite Museum – consult with Bowdoin geology professor

## 5. Upcoming

- a. Workforce Housing Development – October – making the full spectrum of need visible. Discuss proposal, speakers, agenda:  
 As proposed: **Workforce Housing Options, in collaboration with Island Workforce Housing and IHT.** Perhaps a guest speaker: Linda is friends with Deb Keller, head of Bath Housing, or one of the guys from Cape Cod with whom we've had contact. This would be a chance to make public the Short Term Rental Task Force recommendations and also to outline and document the need for local development of tiny house / modular / mobile home developments and how to spur these.
  - i. Relook at Camoin Housing Study: are those #'s still the same?
  - ii. Discuss different types of housing needs, especially entry level
  - iii. What types of housing are people looking for now? Suspect it has changed...get the community needs updated, THEN invite guest speakers in to address the specific needs
  - iv. Not everyone has the desire, credit or capacity to PURCHASE

- v. What kind of funding can we attract to help older people stay in their homes? Would upgrades help?
  - vi. How to coordinate with the Peninsula? Where is the public property and capacity to support additional housing?
- b. Short Term Rental Task Force next steps – at Selectmen’s Meeting October 4
  - i. Selectmen reviewed the Task Force’s 5 proposals and gave the go ahead for the Town to draft ordinances and propose licensing fees

**Town of Stonington is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: SEDC Monthly Meeting**

**Time: Oct 4, 2022 07:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Oct 4, 2022 07:30 AM**

**Feb 7, 2023 07:30 AM**

**Apr 4, 2023 07:30 AM**

**Jun 6, 2023 07:30 AM**

**Aug 1, 2023 07:30 AM**

**Oct 3, 2023 07:30 AM**

**Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.**

**Monthly:**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZcofuCgqDMiG9NFm3LTQTjBFAW1hF9T0jko/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqzljEtKduBiARpwqGYr4XfzwplxHjfpzuhK2LxRiVgnUEMN1Y7pZSeyA>**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83599868817>**

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