

DEVELOPERS & INVESTORS

Welcome



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Dear Business Owner,

Stonington is a business-friendly town that works with developers, investors and entrepreneurs who would like to invest in the community. Every development has different requirements and we recommend that you [contact the Economic Development Commission](#) (EDC) which can help provide guidance on how to best navigate the Town's permitting process.



EDC is an advisory body that can advocate on behalf of new and expanding businesses. EDC's mission is to help increase the number of businesses operating in Stonington, to increase the number of jobs in Stonington, to retain and assist existing businesses and to grow the Grand List. EDC has a pro-growth, pro-change outlook and because we are not a decision-making group, we can provide impartial guidance on any project. EDC uses its network to facilitate Community meetings and to advocate at Planning and Zoning on behalf of new businesses. EDC often looks to find private market solutions for properties that have been forgotten or neglected.

We look forward to working with you.

Dave Hammond, chairman

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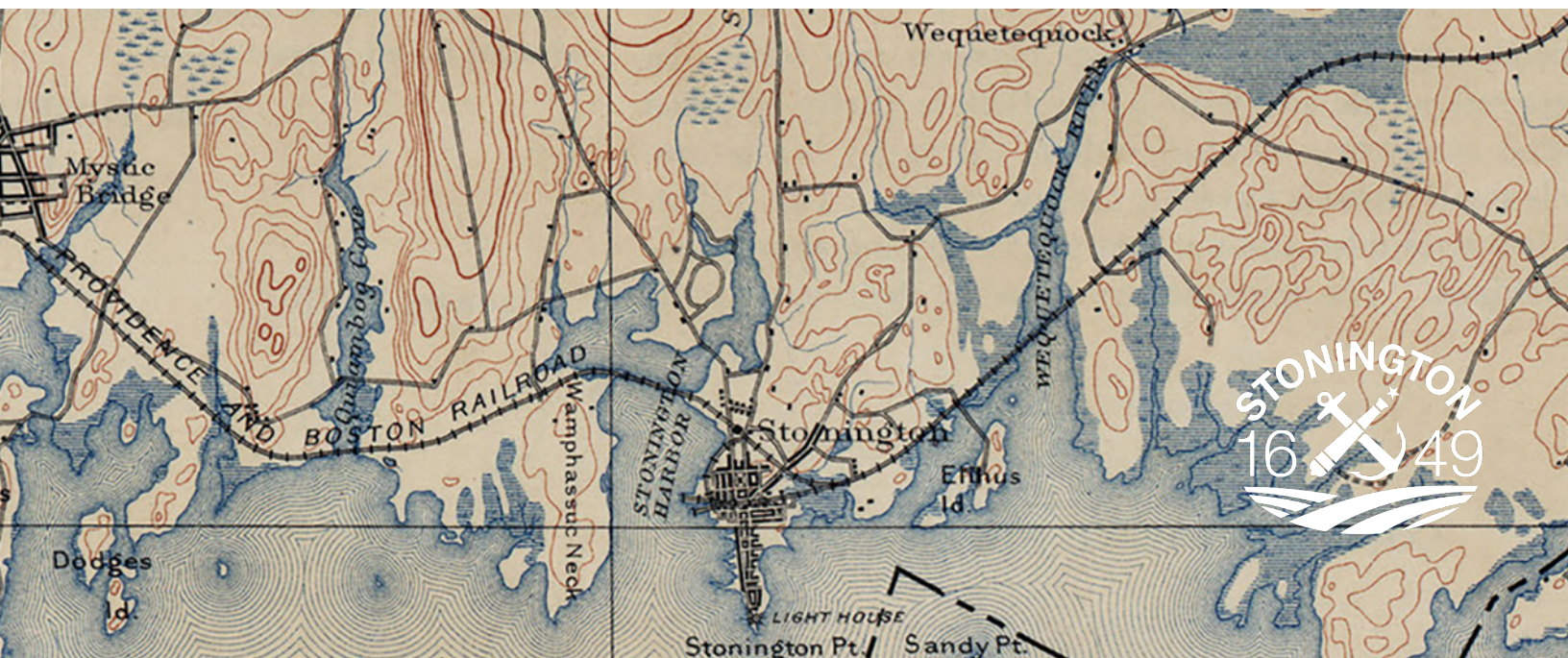
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HISTORY

The first European settlers came to Pawcatuck on the eastern side of Stonington in 1649. Hence the logo and name of our website, Stonington1649.com. The land was owned by the Pequot people who



referred to the area making up Stonington as Pawcatuck. Here is a link to the interesting [history of Stonington](#).

TOWN GOVERNANCE

Stonington, like all towns in Connecticut is governed on a broad [home rule](#) basis, and has powers comparable to those that a city in other states would normally have. There are advantages and disadvantages to this system: residents have a greater voice in the decision-making process over local issues. On the other hand, local interests are often placed ahead of the interests of the region or the state. The town is governed by three elected Board of Selectman. Townspeople are also elected to the Board of Finance and the Board of Education.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Stonington is one of the few towns in Connecticut that has a growing population. Like many communities in the North East, our population is aging. However, due to Stonington's coastal location and quality of life, it has become a retirement destination in the region. Stonington residents tend to stay in the community upon retirement and new residents are drawn to town for jobs in several key industries including defense, health care, tourism and high-tech manufacturing. The number of well-paying jobs and low unemployment rate in the Town and region make Stonington an excellent location for commercial investment. The Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) provides excellent [demographic data on Stonington](#) and all Connecticut Towns. <<



WHY STONINGTON?

Stonington is centrally located between New York and Boston, with I95 and Amtrak passing through the Town. The Town is 45 minutes from TF Green Airport and eastern Long Island is easily accessible by ferry from New London.

Stonington offers a great quality of life, with easy access to Long Island Sound, two rivers, multiple nature preserves, farms and vineyards, and 3 walkable, historic villages filled with shops, restaurants and activities.

Stonington has been fiscally conservative for many years. The Town is not heavily reliant on the State for financing with less than 2MM coming from the State each year. The Grand List grows modestly each year due to the Town's understanding that communities need to change and grow in order to stay strong. The Town boasts a 99% tax collection rate. The school system has been consolidated to match the current student body size with two new elementary schools completely renovated in 2019. Stonington High School has undergone significant renovations in the past 10 years and is held in high regard by the community.

《《 WHO'S WHO

Director of Planning and Economic Development. This role helps to provides EDC and other community leaders with Stonington's vision on how Stonington should change and grow to meet the current and future needs of the community for economic development and can help guide applicants through the permitting process. This can be a very challenging role in an historic town, but the leadership understands that Town need to change and evolve in order to survive and have a thriving community.

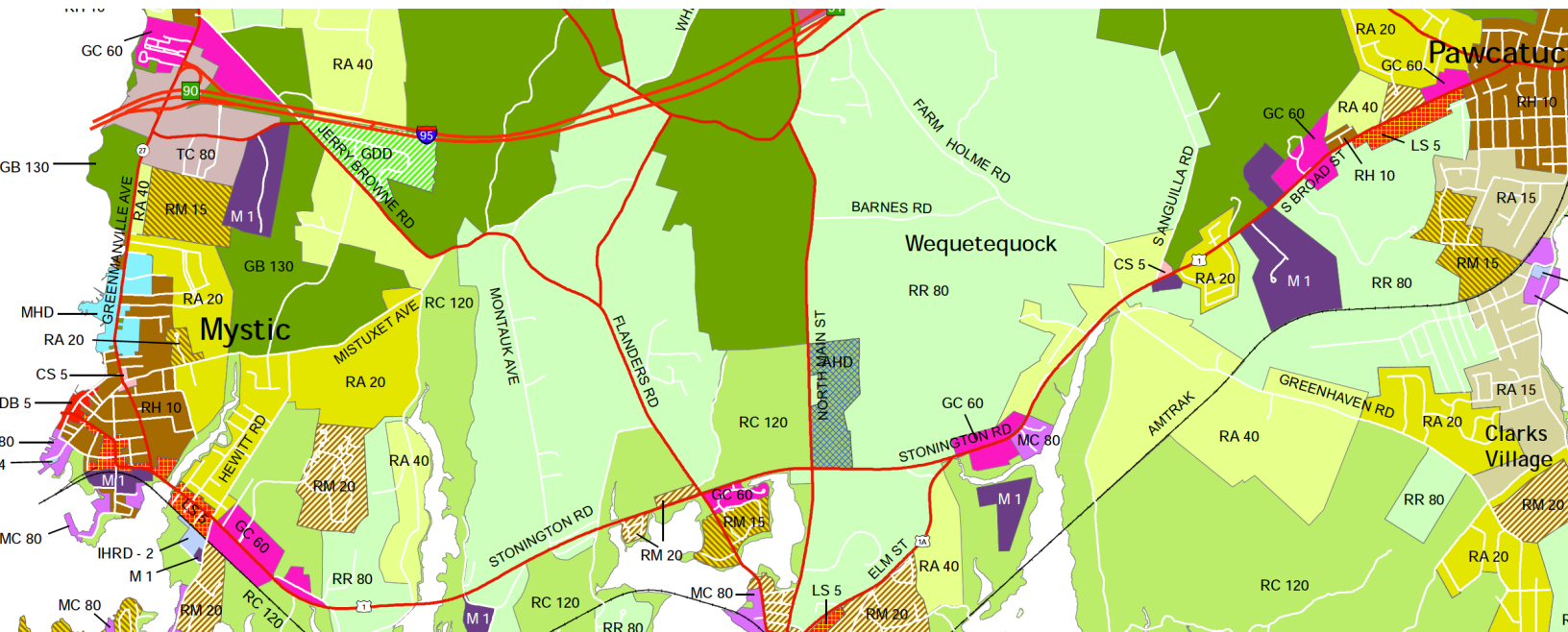
Economic Development Commission is an advisory body that advocates on behalf of new and existing businesses. EDC's mission is to help increase the number of businesses operating in Stonington, to increase the number of jobs in Stonington and to grow the Grand List. EDC works closely with the Director of Planning and Economic Development. The EDC facilitates community forums to get feedback and buy-in from the neighbors on new developments. Community engagement can be critical to success of many projects. The EDC attends Planning and Zoning meetings to advocate on behalf of development projects.

The First Selectman is the Town's highest elected official. The First Selectman is pro-business and has an open door to all constituents, including developers, investors and entrepreneurs who are interested in investing in achieving their goals in Stonington. It is always wise to meet with the First Selectman early in the thought process when considering any new development, so that easily avoided roadblocks can be minimized.



ZONING REGULATIONS

[The zoning regulations](#) are constantly being updated. As a result, they can appear to be quite complex and overwhelming. The Department of Planning has been innovative in designing multiple solutions to help economic development. EDC can help advise on what Zoning Regulations maybe best suited for your proposed business.



CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Stonington is served by two highly active Chambers of Commerce. [The Mystic Chamber of Commerce](#) is based in Mystic near the Seaport Museum. It has a large focus on the Mystic area which covers both sides of the Mystic River which are in the Towns of Stonington and Groton. [The Ocean Community Chamber of Commerce](#) is based in Westerly RI and covers many areas in Stonington, particularly Pawcatuck which is adjacent downtown Westerly on the other side of the Pawcatuck River.

UTILITIES

Electric

[Eversource](#) (800) 286-2000

Internet/Cable/Phone

[Comcast/Xfinity](#) (877)912-6177

[Thames Valley Communication](#) (860) 446-4009

[Verizon/Frontier](#) (877) 218-5089

Water:

[Aquarion](#) (800) 599-4548



COMMUNITY EVENTS, PARADES, FESTIVALS

There are some great local events, festivals and parades that weave into the fabric of Stonington Culture and Community and make Stonington a special place to live.





The Annual Blessing of the Fleet in Stonington, honoring those lost at sea, occurs on the last Sunday in July at the town fishing docks in Stonington Borough. There are a number of events throughout the day culminating in a parade around Stonington Borough after Mass on Sunday followed by a cook-out and music at Town Dock.

Saint Patrick's Day Parade happens in Mystic normally on the Sunday after Saint Patrick's Day. It is called the Mystic Irish Parade and includes concerts, food, fun and of course, some beer.

The Wooden Boat Show brings beautiful wooden boats from all over the US to the Mystic Seaport Museum on the last weekend in June.

The 4th of July Parade in Stonington Borough — Get dressed up in Red, White and Blue and join the parade around the Borough. Afterwards, meet at Wadawanuck Square for the reading of the Declaration of Independence followed by free ice-cream in Mathews Park.



Mystic Pirate Invasion — Hear ye, hear ye! Let it be known that the first weekend in October there will be an imminent threat of pirates in our fair port of Mystic, CT! Join fellow pirate lovers in Downtown Mystic for a weekend of pirate-themed family fun!

The Mystic Holiday Lighted Boat Parade brings Santa on a tugboat to Mystic River Park on the last Saturday in November. The Christmas tree is lit at 6pm. Best decorated boat competition makes this a fun, loud and entertaining event.

The Stonington Village Christmas Carol Sing, Tree Lighting & Merchant Stroll is held in front of the library in Wadawanuck Square the first Friday in December at 5:30 PM.

Mystic Downtown Stroll and Luminary occurs on the second Tuesday in December.

Pawcatuck River Duck Race brings a summer day of food, fun and family entertainment before 20,000 rubber ducks are released at once off the Westerly-Pawcatuck Bridge for an amazing race down the Pawcatuck River, all for a good cause.

Riverglow Pawcatuck features floating bonfires in the Pawcatuck River, with food, festivities and entertainment for all, in August.



CULTURAL CENTERS

Stonington is proud to be the home to the following cultural centers that focus on history, the arts, humanities, and the community.

[Stonington Historical Society](#) which includes the [Capt. Nathaniel B. Palmer House](#) historic museum and the [Old Lighthouse Museum](#) in Stonington Borough.

[Stonington Free Library](#)

[James Merrill House](#) & Writer-in-Residence Program.

[La Grua Center](#), Stonington's venue for the arts, education, celebration, and meetings.

[Stonington Community Center](#) (COMO).



[The Velvet Mill](#), an historic mill restored as a home to eateries, a brewery, farmers market, artists, boutiques, and many businesses.

[Mystic Museum of Art](#) on the Groton side of the Mystic River has been a magnet for artists and patrons since 1913.



Is Stonington right for you?

The EDC is here to help you invest in Stonington. Please [contact us](#) with any questions or to find out how we can help you.



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