

# TOWN OF STONINGTON



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PRESS RELEASE

### New hope for Historic Mills

*Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission adopts entrepreneur zoning*

May 18, 2017  
Stonington, Connecticut

On Tuesday night, Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission members established a new Heritage Mill zoning district. This tool provides additional flexibility for entrepreneurial projects to activate two historic mill properties located along the scenic Pawcatuck River in Pawcatuck. The Mills, the former Harris mill and the former Yardney's complex, have been underutilized since their last major tenants left. Yardney's remains vacant. When evaluating the issues with these buildings, Economic Development leaders identified that permit risk – the ability to quickly secure a permit, was one of the impediments for small businesses.

“The contemporized uses allowed by the HM zoning update are an important piece of the overall revitalization effort underway for historic Downtown Pawcatuck,” stated David Hammond, Stonington Economic Development Commission chair. “Small businesses are the lifeblood of our community and state,” touted Rob Simmons, Stonington First Selectman, and a former small business advocate for the state. “We need to provide the tools for these businesses to form, grow and flourish, and this new zoning district is one of the ways to do it.”

Dan Barber of Northeast Property Group has been marketing these properties for several years, “Over the past year town officials have invested a lot of energy in this neighborhood. They have allocated funding to study how to remove these properties from the flood zone, and created this new district. They've also adjusted parking requirements in the downtown area to the north. It is great to see such energy and effort

The new regulation will take effect on June 6, 2017. Town officials will continue to work with the property owners and Northeast Property Group to attract new businesses and investors to these great properties. Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission chair David Rathbun was instrumental in developing the new rules.

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The Stonington Planning and Zoning Commission is a volunteer-led group of Stonington residents, individually appointed by the Stonington Board of Selectmen. Members serve three year terms and are responsible for managing land use decisions assigned to them by town ordinance, town charter and state statutes. The Stonington Department of Planning provides technical support to the Commission.

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