

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TOWN OF STONINGTON ROLLS OUT SHORT-TERM RENTAL REGISTRATION  
ORDINANCE STARTING APRIL 6**

*FAQ sheet, registration forms now available at Town's website*

STONINGTON, APRIL 4, 2023—On Monday, March 6 Stonington voters approved an array of tools for the Town to assert more local control and provide better services and opportunities for its year round residents, including, by a 2:1 margin, the Town's first Short-Term Rental Registration Ordinance.

This ordinance goes into implementation **Thursday, April 6**, 30 days from the date of its adoption. Short term rental properties (STR) that were in operation for a minimum of a year before December 31, 2022 are grandfathered. These properties must still be registered and comply with Life Safety Codes, but do not need to seek Planning Board approval to operate as short-term rentals. Those with grandfathered units have until **May 1** to complete the simple registration for this benefit.

Because this is a new process and requirement, the Town ordinance provides everyone else, including the Planning Board, until **September 1** to complete the approval and registration processes.

The Town has created a **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** sheet, available here on the Town website, to answer the majority of questions property owners might have about this ordinance. In line with similar ordinances around the state and nation, the ordinance categorizes and treats owner occupied and non-owner occupied properties separately. The Registration form, which can be completed and submitted online, is also available at [www.stoningtonmaine.org](http://www.stoningtonmaine.org).

Stonington's Short-Term Rental Registration Ordinance is just one small but important part of the Town's overall strategy to become more proactive in providing workforce housing options for residents. It is designed to disincentivize the use of the Town's housing inventory merely for investment purposes by non-residents, and to encourage its return to usage, where possible, as year-round homes for residents. Other actions toward attracting, supporting, and retaining year-round workers that were approved by Stonington voters at this year's Town Meeting include tools for the Planning Board to incentivize mixed use and low-to-moderate income rentals, such as a change to the Subdivision Ordinance that

requires any new proposed subdivision to contain a minimum of 10% affordable housing units. Voters also approved committing funds from the sale of tax-acquired properties for the launch of a Housing Reserve Fund. This means that as grant and acquisition opportunities arise for the creation of new workforce housing, the Town will have funds available to actively pursue them.

Additionally, the Town of Stonington's Economic Resilience Plan, a critical piece of these efforts created in collaboration with the nationally-recognized Camoin Associates and through workshops with a large number of residents and business owners, will be released later this month.

The Town of Stonington would like to express its gratitude for the strong turnout, participation, and support of voters at its 2023 Town Meeting. We encourage questions and comments via email to [econdev@stoningtonmaine.org](mailto:econdev@stoningtonmaine.org) or by calling the Town offices at 207-367-2351.

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**ABOUT THE TOWN OF STONINGTON'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

*The SEDC was founded in 2004 as a recommendation of the Town's Comprehensive Plan and meets monthly to support and enhance Stonington's economy. The committee supports all the Town's businesses, including but not limited to fisheries and shore side support; arts and culture; tourism; construction; retail; and agriculture. Its goal is to develop, through local efforts, a more vibrant and sustainable year-round economy for all, supporting businesses and workers as industries transition in the face of climate change, regulations, market forces, etc.*