



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes –April 19, 2017

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, E. Lazarus [Chamber], guest J. Bloomquist from The Owenego, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** C. Lezon moved, seconded by J. Gordon, to accept the consent agenda and the January minutes; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – the First Selectman reported that on April 18th he joined US Senator Chris Murphy for a tour of Mt. Sinai, where Managing Director Todd Arnold spoke highly of the town as a place to do business and of the EDC's ongoing support. They are currently expanding another 10,000 sf and are committed to using as many Branford-based professionals and contractors on the project as possible.
 - B. **P&Z** – Staff reported P&Z approved applications by Premier Subaru & Kia's application for 165 & 175 N. Main St., by Tommy Sullivan's for an addition and deck expansion to its N. Main Street establishment, for "BugEye" auto works for a 3,000 s/f expansion to its Quonset hut garage and office at 59 N. Harbor St., Hallock's site modifications at its new Cedar St. dent & scratch outlet, and denied Burger King's application for a drive-thru at its W. Main St. site. Thimble Island Brewery withdrew its application and is expected to re-apply after it's been revised. . Planimetrics has been selected to be the consultant on the POCD project, and New York-based BFJ for the TOD study. Details for the demolition plans for the Atlantic Wire building are underway. Eversource Energy will begin this month to decommission its Meadow St. substation. C. Lezon provided details and distributed an information sheet on the \$6 million project that will run through 2017 as part of Eversource's plan to harden its infrastructure statewide.
 - C. **Chamber** – E. Lazarus reported on the success of its "Chili Challenge" with more than 400 attending and Hearth at Gardenside taking 1st place, Parthenon "most unique", and Asti's as most traditional. The "women in Excellence" award program will be October 11th at Woodwinds, the non-profit workshop series continue to be a success, and 49 new members have joined in the 1st quarter.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca reported that the April 18th budget meeting with the RTM R&O committee went well and there may be a follow up meeting in May as the RTM is waiting until the state budget becomes more crystallized before voting on departmental and board & commission budget requests. He suggested developing a business directory to post on the EDC's new town webpage and the CERC workshop will be re-scheduled to better fit with the POCD timeline, and reminded everyone that site visits and facilities tours are set for April 20th, 9am at Cintas and 9:45am at Defibtech.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa shared Mosaic's marketing plan for neighboring Madison, and hopes that the EDC will develop a similar approach for its business recruitment and retention effort.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that staff is collecting the data points requested by Axia [e.g., pole count, road miles per town] and following up with preparing the letter of intent.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Chair P. Marseca and the First Selectman presented The Owenego's John Bloomquist with the EDC's "Business Recognition Award." Discussion followed, highlighting The Owenego's 170 year history, status as a CT shoreline landmark, family beach club, and social gathering spot during summer evenings, as well as home for the annual HammerFest, Camp Rising Sun, and other non-profit fundraisers held on its grounds each year.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New Business** – There were no objections to the proposed demolition of Atlantic Wire [1 Church St.] J. Gordon advised that a new veterinary and boarding facility proposed for Rt. 139 is opposed by other vet offices; he does not believe the EDC should become involved in competitive stances between businesses, and he hopes that the POCD process will address underutilized properties.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment offered.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** EDC's next meeting will be Wed., May 17th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:18 a.m. Respectfully submitted, T. Elton [recording secretary]