



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

April 17, 2019 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, First Selectman J. Cosgrove, and T. Elton [staff]. Also attending were Clean Energy ad hoc committee members Shirley McCarthy, Rick Saltz, Greg Ames, Shoreline Greenway Trail chair Judy Miller, Branford Road Race founder Ray Figlewski and BRR committee members Phil Carloni, Mark Hally, Matt Hally, Preston Ranton, BRR coordinator John Bysiewicz, citizens Wayne Cooke and Steve Mazzacane.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Leonard moved to accept the consent agenda and the March minutes as presented; seconded by C. Lezon, motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman extended an invitation to join owner Bob Alvine and Premier Auto at their donation presentation to Camp Rising Sun at 10am on Thursday the 18th; he also reminded everyone that all are invited to the Shoreline Trolley Museum event on May 2nd at the Museum; the CT Rail Council is holding a meeting on Wed. the 17th in Guilford re: the suggestion to have MetroNorth operate Shore Line East. He also provided background on the Clean Energy ad hoc committee and its mission to provide recommendations. W. Cooke was recognized to speak about his law suit against the town and distributed supporting materials.
 - B. **P&Z** – Staff reported that the public hearing for a special exception to modify parking requirements at Pepe's Gulf station on Main St. has been continued until April 22nd; the public hearing for Tidal Basin Inc.'s modification for storm water draining on the proposed hotel site on Indian Neck Avenue has been tabled; a public hearing on a proposed zoning regulation amendment for a new use category for "Farm Event Venue" is scheduled for April 22nd; and a request for special exception modification for a fence relocation at Bruce & Johnson Marina for a new above ground fuel tank was approved. Also, post-POCD work is underway on the zoning map and regulations, as well as on wayfinding signage and sidewalk plans.
 - C. **Chamber** – The annual Chili Challenge is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th in the Town Center.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca cited the success of the Economic Forum and thanked C. Lezon and Eversource for their support of the event and that a fall event with a biotech focus is being considered; Joe Gordon will interview Yale professor and Nobel prize-winner in economics William Nordhaus for BCTV.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa and staff reported that they are working with CERC to complete the website by the end of the fiscal year, sooner if possible.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** Staff reported the municipal gain legislation remains pending before the General Assembly, precluding any interested broadband service providers from operating in a Branford.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** The EDC Business Recognition Award was presented to Branford Road Race founder Ray Figlewski, race coordinator John Bysiewicz, and BRR committee members Phil Carloni, Mark Hally, Matt Hally, Preston Ranton, Ed Vescovi. The BRR has been held for 40 years and grown from 600 runners in 1979 to almost 5,000 expected in 2019.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:** Clean Energy ad hoc committee member Rick Saltz provided an overview of the committee's charge and efforts to encourage the town to make electric vehicles [EV] part of the town's vehicle fleet and to have P&Z encourage charging stations in new commercial development proposals. Committee member Shirley McCarthy also provided information on the value of trees as stress reducers.
 - B. **Public Comment:** W. Cooke reiterated his views about Town Hall and that he intends to submit a letter requesting an investigation. No other comment was offered by the attending public.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by C. Lezon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary]