



# Branford, Connecticut

## Economic Development Commission

Minutes – December 20, 2017

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the October minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
  - A. **Selectman's Report** – the First Selectman shared that the state's special transportation fund is in jeopardy with the deficit and \$1.2 b is to bonded; COG is planning to meet with DOT officials on the issue; no new projects are being designed, and projects must be advertised by the end of the fiscal year in order qualify for funding, COG is submitting a letter on its impact on the region. In response to question regarding the Sybil Creek bridge design impact on neighboring businesses, he will follow up with the town engineer.
  - B. **P&Z** – Approved: special exception for a place of worship at 7-9 Business Park Dr., for an automotive service & repair service at 972 W. Main St., for a site plan for an industrial operation at 755 E. Main St., and to extend to January 18<sup>th</sup> for a site plan retail use at 110 N. Main St. A special meeting is scheduled for December 21<sup>st</sup> for a public hearing to modify the PDD and amend the master plan for a proposed hotel at 4-6 Indian Neck Ave. and accepted a time extension offer until January 19<sup>th</sup>. Construction has begun on the new Branford Veterinary Hospital on No. Branford Rd.; the Rte. 139 bridge project has been completed and the bridge re-opened. Materials were distributed announcing new jet service out of Tweed Airport and Stony Creek Brewery's award at CERC's annual Celebrate CT! awards event.
  - C. **Chamber** - R. Sgueglia reported that the Chamber ended the year in the black, membership is holding at 600+, and its annual meeting will be January 25<sup>th</sup> at WoodWinds. He then introduced Sheri Cote, the Chamber's new president and CEO, followed by a discussion about her plans and objectives for the Chamber.
  - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca advised that the final report on the TOD is nearing completion and passed around a draft; the POCD's first meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup> was discussed as well as the January 24<sup>th</sup> on development issues. A draft of the EDC's 2016-2-17 annual report was circulated and will be filed with the town clerk; suggested revisions are to be sent to staff so the report can be finalized and filed. He also relayed a discussion with former MTA executive director Lee Sanders and will follow up arranging to for him to meet with commission members on transit issues.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
  - A. **Research Committee:** The EDC's website RFP received almost thirty proposals; the website committee will review the proposals and determine which should be interviewed and then make a vendor recommendation to the commission. A. Canosa reminded the commission that any hard copy marketing materials should tie in with the new website content.
  - B. **Resource Committee:** CT's Consumer Counsel's broadband policy office provided information on efforts to end the municipal gain on utility poles, used by many towns for its fiber lines; staff will follow up.
  - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** The next EDC award presentation will be to Lenny's at the February meeting. The commission's site visit and tour to FreeThink Technologies was discussed, as well as plans for its December 7<sup>th</sup> reception at the Blackstone for CURE's outgoing and incoming CEOs.
- V. **New Business**
  - A. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
  - B. **Announcements/Adjourn:** B. O'Brien moved, seconded by A. Canosa, to approve EDC's 2018 meeting schedule; motion carried. The EDC's next meeting is Wed., January 17<sup>th</sup>; it was noted that it will be listed as a "special meeting" to comply with public notice regulations. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
T. Elton [recording secretary]