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Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 15, 2020

Meeting was held by remote technology as authorized by Executive Order 7B Part 1

Present: Perry Maresca, Richard Sgueglia, Alisa Waterman, John Leonard, Cathy Lezon, Jamie Cosgrove, Al Canosa, Bill O'Brien, Elena Cahill

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting to order 8:08

II. Consent Agenda:

Motion to accept the minutes by Al Canosa, Second, Alisa Waterman. Passed unanimously.

III. External reports:

A. Selectman's Report- Discussed the addition of tables and chairs put on the green for residents to use. The town is expanding the public Wi-Fi on the green. Signs are being added in parts of town directing people to the town center. There is an RFP for the renovations on Main Street fixing crosswalks and some road repair. The First Selectman had a conversation with the New Haven Chamber regarding the supply chain of products and the concerns with retail businesses as well as real estate values and how that may affect cities and towns.

B. Planning & Zoning:

- a) **Inland/Wetlands:** There has been an increase in the amount of residential pool applications & installations in the town. Many having to go through Inland Wetlands due to location. 434 East Main Street site is being considered to be developed for offices. Site walk is planned before any approval. Apartments at 367, 377, 373-375 East Main Street was approved with conditions.
- b) **P&Z:** Vox Church is looking to occupy the old bowling alley at exit 53. Tidal Basin LLC is looking to build 34 apartments on the property where Paul's wire is located across from the Brewery. Mariners Landing behind Anchor Reef is looking to construct four buildings of apartments. Both the Tidal Basin and Mariners' Landing plans will incorporate new sections of the Greenway Trail on their properties along the riverfront. Public hearing to be held for both projects on July 16th. There is an extension on the application for new home development located at 99 Todd's Hill Road. Contractor's storage yard application was approved, with conditions, for 58 East Industrial Rd.

C. Chamber Report: No report.

D. Chairman's Update: The Chairman informed the commission on the recent Subway commercial with Bill Belichick filmed in the center of Branford recently, which has brought a lot of good press for Branford. Wall Street Journal and other media continue to note the influx of New Yorkers moving into Fairfield, New Haven and Middlesex Counties. National lending firm rated 25,000 US municipalities, and places Branford as one of the more preferred for renters. EnergizeCT, Eversource and Avangrid have teamed up for additional business assistance plans. Cathy Lezon gave a synopsis of the program.

IV. Committee Reports and Unfinished Business

A. Research Committee: Al Canosa reported on the website. The copy is almost completed and will be sent for one last look to the commission members. Al will meet with Jamie Cosgrove and the head of IT for Branford to get the website up and running as soon as possible.

B. Resource Committee: No Report

C. Retention Committee: No report

D. Unfinished Business: As a followup to last month's topic on Branford's gateways; Need to explore options for gateway signage at all exits from I-95 and entrances along Route 1 into town.

V. New/Other business:

- A. **Demolition Applications:** The structure located at 21 Anchorage Road still looking at the possibility to be moved, otherwise demolition will be done in August. 72 Shore Drive, taking residence down to construct a new home.
- B. **Public Comment:** Wayne Cook had comments on the EDC and the development in Branford. He also commented on some of the current projects in the town.

Motion to adjourn at 9:14 by Al Canosa and second by Elena Cahill.

Next Meeting = September 16th

edc@branford-ct.gov

Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Joe Gordon · John Leonard · Cathy Lezon · Perry Maresca [chair] · William O'Brien · Richard Sgueglia · Alisa Waterman · First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio]

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