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Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 20, 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

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting to order 8:05
- II. **Consent Agenda:** Motion by Al Canosa, second by John Leonard
- III. **External reports:**
 - A. Selectman's Report – Discussed the financial crisis and long-term effect of Covid 19. 90% of the town's revenue comes from property tax. Discussion of what the town can do to help financially. Restaurants are opening using outside seating only. Azitra is moving into Branford from Farmington. Also, there is a Medical Device company interested in moving to Branford.
 - B. P & Z – 21 Sycamore Way has been approved by Inlands Wetlands. Public Hearing at P&Z Meeting scheduled May 21st. Bank & Grocery Store at 1151 West Main St was approved, with conditions, by Inland Wetlands Commission. Mariners Landing (Anchor Reef) made an informal presentation to P&Z, showing plans to build upscale apartments. Property located at 6-8 Indian Neck Avenue is now proposing apartments instead of a Hotel. Exit 55, Metro Star Properties is moving forward on their quest to build apartments and are currently before the Inland Wetlands Commission. A Hampton Inn has been approved to be built on the Branford Motel site.
 - C. Chamber Report: No report. However, Chairman Maresca commended Sheri Cote at Shoreline Chamber of Commerce. From Day 1, she and her team organized, hosted and promoted weekly virtual meetings that included State Reps, Senators, and the Governor in an effort to help businesses navigate through the tribulations brought on by the pandemic.
 - D. Chairman's Update -Josh Geballe formally CEO of a Branford company is now head of DAS working with the Governor. Spoke with Todd Arnold, and Sema4's role in testing for Covid-19, as they expand over to 29 Business Park Drive; their second Branford location.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. Research Committee: Al reported that copy for the EDC website is complete. It consists of 5 pages and has 1342 words. Al and Rich have already reviewed the copy and Al is now sending it out to all the commission members.
 - B. Resource Committee: No Report
 - C. Retention Committee: No report
- V. **New/Other business:** None
- VI. **Public Comments:** Wayne Cook inquired about the Town's plans for development area of Exit 56. Shirley McCarthy inquired on feasibility of erecting Solar Panels on vacant land to bring in rental income.

Adjourned at 9:36am. Motion by Cathy Lezon, second by Al Canosa

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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