



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Regular Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2023

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

Present: Al Canosa, Frank Hird, John Leonard, Jared Schulefand, Rich Sgueglia, Alisa Waterman, First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove, Dee Jacob (Chamber), and Perry Maresca (Staff)

At 8:01am Staff (Perry Maresca) called the meeting to order to determine and elect a new Chairperson to replace Cathy Lezon who resigned from the Commission last meeting. Commission Members present: Al Canosa, Frank Hird, John Leonard, Jared Schulefand, Rich Sgueglia. Motion from the floor by Al Canosa to nominate Rich Sgueglia. Al noted the years of service Rich has been on the commission, as well as his tenure on the Board of the Shoreline Chamber and the many years as a business owner in Branford. John Leonard seconded the motion. After inquiring and receiving no other nominations, the motion was called to a vote which was approved four in favor and one abstention. Rich accepted the position. Rich Sgueglia then called the meeting to order at 8:03 as Chair and requested approval of the December Minutes. A. Canosa motioned, F.Hird seconded, motion carried unanimously. Chair then requested approval of the January Minutes. A. Canosa motioned, F. Hird seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Staff report advised that the Town Center Merchants are in the planning stages of a Branford Book Festival around Main Street. It will be an all-day event that will include book signings from local area authors, an event at the library late in the afternoon, and additional participation by merchants and restaurants throughout the day. Exciting news expected this month concerning Branford and the Health/Science industry. South Central Regional Water District holding a public input meeting on February 23. 7pm at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven. Discussion to be on charges and changes in rate schedule.

Public hearing is scheduled during Thursday night's P&Z meeting for the 11 lot subdivision at 175 Cherry Road and connecting to Autumn Ridge Rd.

Dee Jacob reminded everyone of the Shoreline Chamber's Awards Breakfast being held at Woodwinds on February 21st at 8am. The keynote speaker will be Governor Ned Lamont. Award recipients include Gracious Gifts and Home on Montowese Street and Pat Munger Construction on East Main Street. BC2 will be submitting site plans to Guilford for a large sports complex on some of the old Kneuer's Orchard property abutting the Branford town line.

First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove noted that we are in the budget preparation stage. Trash & Recycling costs will play an important part of the budget. Board of Finance has given an appropriation for Police Department upgrade. RFP has been generated and a construction manager has been brought in. Design considerations continue with a desired 2024 construction for sidewalk and roadway improvements along Main Street. The goal is to complete in one construction season with as little disturbance to businesses as possible, and vast improvements for pedestrians, bikes, and vehicles traversing our downtown. Parks and Open Space Commission has been extremely helpful in providing additional access to our many trails in town, including the Shoreline Greenway Trail.

The portion of the Town Code regarding the Economic Development Commission states that it is to consist of up to nine members that are residents of Branford; one of which shall consist of a board member from the town's chamber of commerce. Staff will follow up with chamber.

Retention and Expansion Committee met on January 31st and determined initial thoughts, priorities and strategies. An outreach to the different types of businesses will commence in the coming months. The Attraction Committee will put updated focus in areas such as the website and marketing the town. The Workforce Development Committee is aware of job fairs and job boards at the high school, as well as internships required by the high school. Each committee will meet again with staff prior to the EDC's March 1st meeting.

Only correspondence was from Sunwood Development Corporation advising of the demolition application for a home at 2 Ferry Lane. There were no objections.

There was no public comment.

There will be a special meeting on Monday, February 13th for commission members to review EDC needs for the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget. Next regular meeting is March 1st, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18a. Motion by Alisa Waterman, seconded by Frank Hird. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Perry Maresca

Staff

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

475-837-3622 pmaresca@branford-ct.gov

Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

Richard Sgueglia (Chair) · edc@branford-ct.gov

Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Frank Hird · John Leonard · Jared Schulefand · Alisa Waterman

First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio]

Branford Economic Development Commission - 1019 Main Street - Branford, CT 06405 - 203-315-0637 - www.branford-ct.gov