



**Economic Development Commission**

**Branford, Connecticut**

## Meeting Minutes

**February 16, 2022**

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

**Present:** Cathy Lezon (Chair), Jamie Cosgrove, Ellen Carucci (Shoreline Chamber)  
Dee Jacob (Shoreline Chamber), Perry Maresca (Staff),  
**Via Zoom:** Rich Sgueglia, Al Canosa, Alisa Waterman, John Leonard

**Call to Order:** Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:06am

**Approval of Minutes** January Minutes: Motion to accept by Al Canosa; second by John Leonard. Motion carried

**Presentation from the Sustainable Energy Commission:** Bob Babcock and Dan Rabin, along with Devan Willemsen from Eversource, spoke on program outreach to businesses promoting energy efficient opportunities. A grant received from Energize CT will be used to market and contact businesses advising of programs available, including utility incentives, life cycle management of buildings, solar canopies incentives, and many more. Will work with EDC to identify businesses that would be interested in taking advantage of these benefits. All are encouraged to contact [BranfordCleanEnergy.com](http://BranfordCleanEnergy.com) for more information.

### **Reports:**

*Staff Report:* TCMA meeting: Valentines Day promotions left to businesses' individual plans. Shoreline Chamber has coined "Love your Local Merchant" for weekend promotions on social media. Town Hall is sensitive to effects of Main St reconstruction on the area businesses. Looking at the entire project as a whole and will consider all options as it moves forward. Branford Festival is welcoming Town Center Merchants thoughts to assure as little disruption as possible, while still holding true to the Festival's traditional town event. May possibly coordinate pop-ups or extensions of Main St businesses to be able to set up at building side parking spaces in closed section of Main St for part of Saturday. Festival Corp is talking with Town regarding a new stage. Rent or borrow is backup plan. New Showing of Artists at the BACA space on Main Street premiered this past Saturday. Rosa DeLauro attended and gave a poignant speech noting how important the arts are for a community. An antiques boutique will be taking over the old Branford Art Gallery at Main & Svea. And a "Speak-Easy" to open up at the old Yooki Yama location.

*Planning & Zoning:* Subdivision @175 Cherry Hill Rd public hearing closed. Goodsell Point Marina Development public hearing closed. Multifamily at Burban Dr (old Hospice)

continues public hearing. Apts at x55 requesting additional bldg. Public hearing for Amazon Fulfillment Center to start 2/17. Hearing to be set for Buckley Rd Development. Applications being submitted for vehicle sales at 59 North Harbor St. New home construction application for 98-102 Seaview Ave being submitted. There have been multiple inquires and initial conversations for additional BioTech & LifeScience facilities, as well as over 55 cluster home communities.

*Chamber:* The Shoreline Chamber continues to grow in both membership and activities. Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> is the Annual Breakfast and Awards Meeting, honoring outstanding achievements by businesses and non-profits for 2021. Keynote speaker will be Colin Cooper, Chief manufacturing Officer for the State of CT. The Chamber is working closely with BACA to relinquish its management of the Crafts Fair at the Branford Festival. A push by BACA and the Chamber is underway to bring in more artisans.

**Old Business:** Letter in support of the fulfillment center of exit 53 was read aloud to the commission members. Staff will email to Planning and Zoning Department and Commission Chair Lezon will read to that Commission at its meeting Thursday night. Budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year that had been emailed to the EDC was discussed. Conversation to explore ways of promoting the Town, including updating lists and types of businesses in Branford. How to utilize those lists and determine ways to improve our social media presence was discussed as pertinent expenses in the desired budget. Commissioners Waterman and Canosa will spearhead a subcommittee. A Motion to approve the overall budget expense of \$19,150 was made by Al Canosa and seconded by Rich Sgueglia. Motion carried unanimously.

**New Business:** Demolition request for home at 45 West Haycock Point received no objections. There was no other correspondence received, and no public comment.

**Announcements:** Next Meeting = March 16, 2022

**Meeting adjourned @ 9:40am**

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

475-837-3622 [pmaresca@branford-ct.gov](mailto:pmaresca@branford-ct.gov)

**Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager**

Cathy Lezon (Chair) · [edc@branford-ct.gov](mailto:edc@branford-ct.gov)  
Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · John Leonard · Richard Sgueglia · 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](http://www.branford-ct.gov)