



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2022

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

Present: Cathy Lezon (Chair), John Leonard, Alisa Waterman, Dee Jacob (Shoreline Chamber), Perry Maresca (Staff),
Via Zoom: Rich Sgueglia

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:09am

Approval of Minutes February Minutes: Motion to accept by Alisa Waterman; second by John Leonard. Motion carried

Reports:

Staff Report: Town Center businesses participating in family scavenger hunt with Lucky the Leprechaun 56 families signed up. May through October entertainment on Town green twice a week with Jazz nights on Thursdays from June 30th to end of August. Stony Creek Fife & Drum Corps to host a muster at Hammer Field August 19th, 20th. Merchants may hold the End of Summer Sidewalk Sale that weekend as well. BACA to hold an Artists Market under the big tent on the Green the 3rd week of September. "Painted Doors" fund raiser to be held in fall. "Northern Shade" movie written, directed, produced by Branford natives, has earned a feature slot all three days at the Phoenix Film Festival in April. Other showings are slated in upcoming months at boutique theatres, and at other Film Festivals. Working out plans of promotion and screenings for the people of Branford to hopefully be at the Legacy Theatre. Scenes were shot at the Stony Creek Quarry, Stony Creek Package Store, ZuWalick Sawmill, Trinity Church, Trolley Museum Railway, and other nearby locations. New businesses coming to Main Street include: Bespoke Home; Pearl Wine Bar; Tags on Main; 1928 Cocktail Club. BACA has signed a lease to stay at current location and Shop Polished is celebrating 10 years this summer.

Planning & Zoning: New Darbar location at Montowese St is well underway. Old Darbar location has interested party. Many locations, from storefront to warehouse to BioScience get released almost as soon as they become available. Amazon distribution center getting closer to approval. Additional apartment building at Exit 55 was approved. More homes along the water being taken down/raised/built anew. Subdivision at 175 Cherry Hill Rd withdrawn with plans to resubmit in future. Subdivision at Bickley Rd being resubmitted. Cleanup and site work has commenced at Mariner's Landing.

Chamber: Dee Jacobs reports that Ellen Carucci is retiring as of 3/31 and Dawn Jackson has come on board to focus on Business Development. Surge in ribbon cuttings as new businesses open and others that opened during covid are now promoting their new business. Awards Breakfast had 110 people in attendance. Nine awards were given, including BACA. The “Coaching for Success” program moving forward with hopes of Branford funding. Next Business After Hours is March 28th. Net 90 to be held at Evergreen Woods. The Branford Festival already has 30 Artisans signed up for the Saturday Crafts Fair. An electronic Restaurant Guide will be produced in May. A Business Expo on October 15th at the Guilford Fair Grounds. All businesses/stores encouraged to participate and promote their company’s service, wares, or products.

Old Business: Annual Budget of \$19,150 presented to the Board of Finance on Monday. Presenting to RTM in April.

New Business: None. No Demolitions. No Correspondence. No Public Comment.

Announcements: Next Meeting = April 20, 2022

Meeting adjourned @ 8:59am. Motion by Alisa Waterman and seconded by John Leonard.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

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

Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Cathy Lezon (Chair) · edc@branford-ct.gov · 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