



**Economic Development Commission      Branford, Connecticut**  
**EDC Meeting Minutes    April 21, 2021**  
[edc@branford-ct.gov](mailto:edc@branford-ct.gov)

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

**Call to order:** Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting held via Zoom to order at 8:04

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to accept, Al Canosa, Second John Leonard

**Selectman's Report:** First Selectman reported that Bausch & Stroebel just broke ground on a 70,000 square foot building on Route 139. Rosa DeLauro came to town last week to talk to some of the business owners in Branford regarding the status and effect of PPP for them. Vaccinations continue in Branford and 60% of the residents have received their shots. Branford will have a Memorial Day parade. There will not be a Branford Festival this year. There are plans to have the Branford Fireworks.

**Planning and Zoning:** Cosgrove Animal shelter approved for expansion. Driving School to open in the old Branford Theater Building. Revisit parking requirements for restaurants in Town Center. Shell station on Leete's Island Rd has reopened with new tanks, pumps, canopy and paving. Mobil across the street is also planning on upgrades. Bittersweet property is being marketed. PDD at exit 56 was declared to no longer be in effect during the 4/15 P&Z. At upcoming meetings, P&Z will discuss possible flexibility of IG-2 zoning in that area. Chairman read highlights of a letter addressed to P&Z from Attorney Nick Mingione regarding the use of the property at exit 56. Letter to P&Z and EDC from Kate Galambos regarding Exit 56 was received and read by the Chairman. Wayne Cook commented on present zoning at exit 56, and requested that he be allowed to give his presentation on exit 56 to the EDC. He also recommended more creativity for a more defined process that would be in the best interest for the Town of Branford regarding the property at exit 56. Chairman is creating ad-hoc with 2-EDC, 2-P&Z, and Town Planner to discuss thoughts, options, considerations. Property use near exit 53 is still hindered until on/off ramps are added. Atlantic Wharf also has some movement.

**Chamber Report:** Ellen Carucci reported that there will be a State of the Town webinar being held the morning of May 19th. There will be a Net 90 networking event held at the Parthenon diner. April 27 the last virtual Business after Hours will be held. May will start in person events that the chamber will hold. Ribbon cuttings will also continue.

**Chairman's Report:** Some recent *Events in Press*: \*The April 8th visit by Rosa DeLauro to Branford's Center merchants was well received and appreciated. \*Bausch & Stroebel moving to Branford on Route 139. \*Vox Church breaking ground for a new building located at exit 53 at the site of the old bowling alley. \*The Legacy Theater (the old Puppet House) opening on Friday April 23.

**Research Committee:** Al Canosa reported that the website will be completed on April 26 according to the web master. They will be sending secure access over on that date. After review, it will go live.

**New Business and Additional Correspondence:** Demolition Letter for garage at 290 Pine Orchard Rd (no objections)

**Old Business:** It was reported by the First Selectman that he will be meeting with the assessor regarding the local business taxes, the procedure, and the effect it has on businesses in Branford.

**Public Comment:** Wayne Cook commented on the Clean Energy Committee and some of their positive efforts. He also referenced the need of having an EDC director for the town. The first Selectman stated that a part time EDC director was added to the budget.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:09, Motion to adjourn by Al Canosa, second by Rich Sgueglia.

**Next Meeting:** May 19, 2021 which will be the State of the Town webinar sponsored by the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce.

Perry Maresca  
Chairman  
Branford Economic Development Commission

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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