



**Economic Development Commission**

**Branford, Connecticut**

## Meeting Minutes

**May 18, 2022**

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

**Present:** Cathy Lezon (Chair), Elena Cahill, Al Canosa, Frank Hird, Rich Sgueglia, Jamie Cosgrove, Dee Jacob (Shoreline Chamber), Perry Maresca (Staff),

**Call to Order:** Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:04am. Cathy introduced new EDC Member Frank Hird of O,R&L Commercial, LLC. Mr Hird hails from the commercial brokerage division.

**Approval of Minutes** April Minutes: Motion to accept by Rich Sgueglia; second by Elena Cahill. Motion carried

### **Reports:**

**Staff Report:** Live music on the Green begins May 19<sup>th</sup> with The Syndicate Duo playing from 6p-9p. Additional recent activity around the Green includes the opening of The Juice Co. and Tags on Main. Pearl Wine Bar, 1928 Cocktail Club, Darbar are all expected to be open come June. Home Restaurant expected to move to Montowese St. Sidewalk Sale will possibly be the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in August but not finalized yet. Stony Creek Brewery is offering “Pop-Up” opportunities on Saturdays during the summer for the Town Center Merchants. Contact Ed Crowley Jr for additional information. Google Street View offers “Inside Storefront” video to help advertise the local merchant. Email [pmaresca@branford-ct.gov](mailto:pmaresca@branford-ct.gov) for link.

**Planning & Zoning:** Approved change of 9 Elm Street from R1 to IG1; Approved request for Special Exception at 226 North Main Street to sell classic cars by Dream Machines, LLC; Bluepoint Apothecary LLC applying for Special Exception- Hybrid Retailer @ 471 East Main St.

**Chamber:** Dee Jacob- Ribbon Cuttings and Milestone Celebrations continue. Recent increase of 25 new members to the Chamber. BAH & N90 events drawing more and more attendees. Next one is 5/24. The June event will be at the Shoreline Chamber’s new, larger offices. Celebrating ten years of combining Chambers, the new fully staffed office will be on display. They now offer a Benefactor Program which entails a special sponsorship with additional benefits. Contact the Chamber for additional information. Still working on the Economic Boost Program and hoping that Branford will participate. The joint effort with BACA in filling the spaces for the Crafts Fair at the Branford Festival is going extremely well with 90% of the spaces sold and 75% of those to local artisans. Majority of the proceeds go directly to BACA.

**Selectman's Report:** RTM approved the budget which comes in with the Mill Rate to remain flat as we enjoy a 0% increase. BOF to finalize the end of the month. Working with departments in Town Hall to develop a master plan for additional revitalization in parts of the Town Center including the north side of Main St extending down to the 4<sup>th</sup> ward and toward the train station. Dredging of harbors, Stony Creek dock, ramp and town beach as well as the channel and Branford River continue to be on the forefront. Realignment of intersections and access of I-95 at exit 53 remain a priority as the influx of new businesses is allowing the area to rejuvenate.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** May 24<sup>th</sup> at Woodwinds from 4p-7p is the Regional Real Estate & Construction Forecast for the Greater New Haven region. Clean Energy Committee and Economic Development Commission holding energy saving forum on June 6<sup>th</sup> from 5p-7p at the Stony Creek Brewery for local businesses. Frank Hird noted that AdvanceCT will be sending representatives on behalf of the area towns to the upcoming Society of Industrial & Office Realtors conference. Also, the State of CT may be interested in area of Branford to service electrified buses.

Correspondence: No letters. No Demolition Applications as of 5/17

No Public Comment

**Announcements:** Next Meeting = June 15, 2022

**Meeting adjourned** @ 9:15am. Motion by Al Canosa and seconded by Rich Sgueglia

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca  
Staff

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

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Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Frank Hird · John Leonard · Richard Sgueglia · Alisa Waterman  
First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio]

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