



**Economic Development Commission                      Branford, Connecticut**  
**EDC Meeting Minutes      September 15, 2021**

Joe Trepasso Community House

[edc@branford-ct.gov](mailto:edc@branford-ct.gov)

Present: Perry Maresca, Jamie Cosgrove    Remote: Elena Cahill, Al Canosa, Rich Sgueglia, Alisa Waterman

**Call to order:** Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:10am

**Approval of Minutes:** Deferred to October meeting.

**Selectman's Report:** First Selectman advised of a proposal to develop the site off Exit 53 where the old Sero factory (old JM Fields building) used to stand. Vacant property for decades, with pavement in disrepair. John Mancini of BL Company and John Knuff, the attorney for the client, gave a presentation of a "last mile" fulfillment center for Amazon. The proposal is expected to soon go through the application process of IW and P&Z. This month the current Chair of EDC, was hired as Branford's Economic and Business Development Manager. Perry will be stepping down as Chairman and will no longer be on the EDC. A new Chairman will be selected at the next meeting in October. Likewise, there are vacancies on the EDC. Any interested individuals should send a letter of interest to the Selectman's office. Keely Baisden Knudsen of Legacy Theatre spoke on the opening and success of the revamped facility. Performances have brought people in on a regular basis from throughout CT, as well as NY, MA, RI and beyond. She encourages everyone to come and enjoy one of the Broadway shows or other events that are scheduled at this venue. Requests that businesses partner up to help promote the Legacy Theatre and advise people that there is a shuttle service available from exit 56 during scheduled performances.

**Planning and Zoning:** An 11 Lot Subdivision is being proposed at 175 Cherry Hill Rd. Automated Car Wash at 54-60 North Main St. Zoning Regulation Amendment discussions for ground mounted small scale solar installations at residential dwellings. Zoning Regulation Amendment discussions for possible cannabis outlets. One year extension granted for construction of apartments at 367, 373, 375 & 377 East Main Street (by Exit 55).

**Chamber Report:** Ellen Carucci reported that the business networking meetings continue to be scheduled outdoors. Both the regular Net 90 and Business After Hours events have been well attended. Woman of Excellence luncheon to take place October 12th.

**Chairman's Report:** Repaving construction of Main St continues. Public meeting held in August on the Green for suggestions and comments was well attended. Still time for ideas and concerns to be heard and addressed. This department will be sure to reach out to the Town Center merchants. Federal funding request has been approved for road improvements for the East Industrial Road area of exit 56. An extremely positive article appeared in last week's New York Times Real Estate section. Many businesses and references to Branford's favorable way of life.

**Old Business:** Al Canosa reported that the web site is now fully up and running. Assurances and procedures are in place to keep it current and easy to navigate. There is a direct link from the regular town website: <https://www.branford-ct.gov/departments/economic-development> as well an avenue for those searching for sites: <https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net/resources> He also requested that for any information that we wish to add or update, that we please contact him and forward the information for consideration.

**New Business:** Letter received from Town Hall advising that they wish to tear down 26 Church St (adjacent to the newly completed Joe Trapasso Community House). Alisa advised of an upcoming forum series: Identifying your BioTech space needs. Motion to draft a letter of support for the proposed Amazon fulfillment center at exit 53 by Al Canosa and seconded by Rich Sgueglia.

**Public Comment:** Ellen Carucci requested that additional information be supplied to Main St businesses regarding which areas will be experiencing detours as the work continues. When actual paving begins, the town will have more ability to schedule the work and advise the businesses accordingly.

**Meeting adjourned:** 9:32, Motion to adjourn by Rich, second by Alisa

**Next Meeting:** October 20, 2021

Perry Maresca  
pmaresca@branford-ct.gov  
Economic and Business Development Manager

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

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<https://www.branford-ct.gov/departments/economic-development> - <https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net/resource>