



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2022

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

Present: Cathy Lezon (Chair), Al Canosa, Frank Hird, John Leonard, Rich Sgueglia, Dee Jacob (Shoreline Chamber), First Selectman James Cosgrove, and Perry Maresca (Staff)

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:03am.

Approval of Minutes September Minutes: Motion to accept by Rich Sgueglia; second by Al Canosa. Motion carried.

Reports:

Staff Report: Town Center continues to be active with new restaurants opening, anniversary milestones with businesses, Scarecrows on the Green, and events through the Blackstone Library. O'Toulouse Restaurant to open week of Oct 25th and 1928 Cocktail Club ribbon cutting on Nov 3 at 4pm. Trunk-or-Treat Saturday Oct 29th from 3-5pm. Many local merchants, businesses and organizations are participating. Holiday Parade scheduled for 11/26. Sip, Shop, and Stroll to be Dec 1st. First Night being held Jan 6th with bonfire on the Green. RTM approved some of the ARPA funds to be used to support BACA's efforts and Shoreline Chamber of Commerce's program for boosting business.

Planning & Zoning: Bluepoint LLC had been approved as a dispensary for recreational marijuana. List of conditions have to be met before commencing. Much of the current P&Z items have been residential additions. 819-841 East Main St will be presented at the October 20th P&Z meeting. This application calls for a research laboratory and general office. The new Metro Star apartments on Route 1 at exit 53 have started to be leased. They recently received a beautification award from the Forestry Commission. New Zoning Enforcement Officer has been hired.

Chamber: Dee Jacob- Membership continues to increase. Net90 event to be 10/22 at Evergreen Woods. BAH at Page Hardware on 10/25. Women of Excellence Awards luncheon to be held Nov 15th and the Holiday Bash is 12/13. Held successful Multi-Chamber Forums with political candidates for November elections. Sept 29th at QU was Gubernatorial and Oct 18th was by Zoom with State Legislative candidates. Coaching for Business Success program will focus on assisting businesses, YouTube "How To" videos to navigate some common issues for new and existing businesses.

Selectman's Report: Rt146 over Sybil Creek will be closed for next two weeks as part of new bridge project. Main Street reconstruction and repaving project to start up again in the spring. Installation of brick sidewalks, granite curbing, and benches continues through the Tyler Green area. \$500,000 STEEP Grant planned for use as part of the overall projects that will also upgrade street/sidewalk lighting, irrigation of main section of the Green. Coastal Resiliency Fund to be utilized for study of existing and future facilities to address storm flooding and sea level rise.

Old Business: Reestablishing subcommittees. Chair Cathy Lezon would like to have a casual meeting to determine the best way for the EDC to focus its energy and efforts. Recognizing the needs of the business community and how the EDC can assist to attract and retain strong businesses that are beneficial to all. Reassess the role of EDC and determine how we can implement a Workforce Development plan and other programs to help restaurants, manufacturers, and other types of businesses.

New Business:

I-95 Eastern Connecticut PEL study will begin on November 1st. EDC members were encouraged to go online and sign up for updates and the ability for input as process continues. Discussion ensued about the options, plans, and needs for additional access to I-95 at exit 53 and existing drawings from civil engineers on restructuring some of the intersections and access roads.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Shirley McCarthy noted the importance of the environment and willingness of members of the Clean Energy Committee to work with the EDC in assuring that businesses are aware of smart energy choices.

Announcements:

Next Meeting = November 16, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 9:19a. Motion by Frank Hird, seconded by Rich Sgueglia. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca
Staff

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

**475-837-3622 pmaresca@branford-ct.gov
Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager**

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