



**Economic Development Commission**

**Branford, Connecticut**

## Meeting Minutes

**October 20, 2021 8:00am**

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

**Present:** Cathy Lezon, Perry Maresca, Jamie Cosgrove, Ellen Carucci (Shoreline Chamber)  
**Via Zoom:** Rich Sgueglia, Al Canosa, Alisa Waterman, John Leonard

**Call to Order:** Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:01am

**Chairman's Announcement:** Chairman announced that as per discussion last meeting, he is now stepping down as Chairman, and off the EDC. Requested volunteers and nominations for a new Chair. Al Canosa, Alisa Waterman, and Cathy Lezon were all presented as possibilities. Electronic vote via chat from the EDC members attending the meeting elected Cathy Lezon. The newly elected Chair requested that Perry Maresca continue to run the meeting as she had just been elected and was not privy to much of the meeting's information

**Approval of Minutes** July Minutes: Motion to accept by Al; second by Rich. Motion carried September Minutes: Motion to accept by Al; second by Rich. Motion carried

### **Reports and unfinished business:**

**Staff Report:** TCMA meeting w/Town Hall Town Center Merchants Association Meeting: Extremely well attended close to 30 people there & zoomed. Building strong bond to bring more people to the center of town. Trunk-or-Treat; Tree Lighting Parade & Festivities; Sip & Stroll; etc. Meet twice monthly during the holiday season, once/month thereafter. Website working already. 45 minute conversation with developer from MA. Interested in existing retail/service zones to upgrade and redevelop. Impressed with what the town has to offer. We seem like a business oriented, secure town. Amazon Fulfillment Center getting positive feedback from many. Branford owned business already reached out as possible general contractor. Stony Creek Museum and Branford Trolley Museum working together and with Town Hall to promote themselves and the town. Request of Funds applied for through SCRCOG to assist in dredging Branford River. Al Canosa noted that the website was getting noticed well, with most people going from our welcome page to the Resources page and the News about Branford page. Discussion on how to continue to increase hits and utilize Search Engine Optimization. Suggestion was also made to promote businesses by category.

**Planning & Zoning:** Branford Summit Apartments LLC 5 & 13 Summit Place Zoning Map Amendment –To add to the Commerce Park (CP) Zone Incentive Housing Overlay Zone (IHOD) designation to properties at above addresses. Investment Property LLC, 175 Cherry Hill Road 11 Lot ReSubdivision. 13 Sycamore LLC, 13 Sycamore Way Site Plan- Research Lab & Office Application #21-9.8 To be A/R. 54 & 60 North Main Street Special Exception-Car Wash Application #21-7.4 A/R & PH opened and continued from 9/2/21

**Chamber:** New President: Dee Jacob, a strategic planner and former small business owner. Legislative Update meeting scheduled for 10/28 @ 9:00 Senator Cohen, Reps Candelora, Scanlon and Comey all scheduled for discussion. Ribbon cutting 10/20 @ 10am for Gracious Gift & Home, 116 Montowese St. 10/20 Net90 @ Evergreen Woods, Business After Hours @ Guilford Texaco. Chamber Town Guide will be distributed in 10/28 Sound/Courier

**Chairman's Report:** IsoPlexis Proposes Terms for \$125 Million IPO. Avelo will initiate service from Tweed - its first East Coast base - to Florida. Branford area unemployment rate continues to be lower than it was the beginning of the pandemic: 5.3% Branford & US; New Haven is at 7.1% Cathy Lezon, our new Chair, will proudly be taking the reins at our next meeting.

*Selectman's Report:* Received about half of the 8.2 million from the American Rescue Plan. Applying to Infrastructure & Sewer Projects assist in Economic Development. Human Services needs as well as Arts & Culture, Branford Community Foundation. Actively looking into and applying for multiple grants and funding from government agencies including STEAP. Have already been granted the 2.7 million for improvements at East Industrial Rd by Exit 56. Road upgrades along Main St continue. Once the Gas/Power/Water companies complete their change outs, the Town will have more control of scheduling construction to better accommodate businesses.

**Old Business:** Meeting scheduled this month (10/28) to discuss Personal Property Tax methods and how it affects Businesses

**New Business:** Alisa advised of upcoming webinar: Lab Space Life Cycle & Lessons Learned. 10/26 from 8:30-10am. Panel includes principals from Azitra, Arvinas, Halda Therapeutics, and FreeThink Technologies.

*Correspondence: Demolition Applications-* Waterside Building & Development to take down structures at 61, 65-71, 67 Goodsell Point Rd to build 15 homes = No objections from the Commission

*Public Comment:* None

**Announcements:** Next Meeting = November 17, 2021

**Meeting adjourned @ 9:38am**

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca

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Perry Maresca · 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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