



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

Present: Cathy Lezon (Chair), Elena Cahill, Al Canosa, John Leonard, Rich Sgueglia, Alisa Waterman, Dee Jacob (Shoreline Chamber), and Perry Maresca (Staff)

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:06am.

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

Reports:

Staff Report: Town Center news... Garden Club's Scarecrows on the Green enjoyed by all. Park & Rec's Trunk-or-Treat extremely well attended. Ribbon Cutting & Grand Opening Celebration for 1928 Cocktail Club on Nov 3rd filled the restaurant. Shop Small Business and the Holiday Parade are scheduled for Saturday after Thanksgiving (11/26). Shop, Sip, and Stroll scheduled for 12/1 from 5p-8p.

Planning & Zoning: Metro375, LLC @ 367,373-375,377,383 East Main Street PDD Masterplan modification approved. Research Lab & Offices for 819-841 East Main St approved. Public Hearings scheduled for 11/17 include amendments to allow Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Arrays. PDD Modification to 1171 Main St, LLC. New Application for additional silos and building to be able to increase production at Stony Creek Brewery.

Chamber: Dee Jacob- Upcoming milestone events: Service Master 11/29 for 10 years. Cross Pointe Credit Union celebrating 80 years. Women of Excellence Awards sold out luncheon on 11/15. Three of the five were from Branford. Promoting Shop Small Business. Shop Local all year. Launching Gift Cards through Yiftee's "Keep Local Dollars Local" program. Coaching for Business Success is moving forward thanks in part to Branford's support.

Selectman's Report: No Report

Old Business: Chair Cathy Lezon updated the Commission on plans of reaching out to Branford businesses, attracting new business into town, and develop improved communication with Branford High and possible events for job force alliance. The three new subcommittees will be Retention/Expansion, Attraction, and Workforce Development. She then outlined some of the goals for each subcommittee and requested that each commissioner email her with requests as to which they felt they could best serve on. I-95 improvement study held online meeting on 11/15. Staff will forward information to commissioners pertaining to meeting and next steps.

New Business:

2023 EDC Regular Meeting Schedule was presented to continue on third Wednesday of each month excluding August when the Commission does not meet. Motion made to change the regular monthly meeting to the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Made by Elena Cahill and seconded by Alisa Waterman. Staff to confirm actual dates.

Special recognition at our next meeting (Dec 21st) to honor Bill O'Brien. Past EDC Chair and commission member for 38 years.

South Central Connecticut Economic Development Survey underway.

Correspondence: Demolition application for 54 and 60 East Main received no objections.

Public Comment: None.

Announcements:

Jared Schulefand, owner of Home Restaurant and also serves as a consultant for other restaurants, attended today's meeting as he noted interest in joining the EDC.

Next Meeting = December 21, 2022

Meeting adjourned at 9:02a. Motion by Alisa Waterman, seconded by Elena Cahill. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca
Staff

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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]

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