



Economic Development Commission Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes December 15, 2021 Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

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

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:10am

Approval of Minutes: November Minutes- Motion to accept by AI; second by Rich. Motion carried w/one Abstention

Reports and unfinished business:

Staff Report: Biotech continues to be interested in the Exit 55 and Exit 56 area. Thompson St has 20,000 sq' available with potential of 90,000 sq'. Chair and Staff attended AdvanceCT ribbon cutting of their offices in New Haven. They welcomed the idea of hosting one of our monthly meetings.

Planning & Zoning: *Inland Wetlands-* Approved w/conditions: 175 Cherry Hill Rd 11 lot subdivision; Last Mile Fulfillment Center (Amazon) at Exit 53; Additional building at apartments by Exit 55. *P&Z-* Approved: 12 month moratorium on cannabis establishments; Renovations of existing office space at Stony Creek Brewery to become a kitchen to service patrons of the brewery and thereby be less reliant on food trucks; Reluctant to approve patio seating for the kitchen at adjoining property. Record number of items on P&Z's agenda. Upcoming 2022 promises to continue the trend. Informal presentation of apartments off Rt 139 behind the Parthenon Diner will include some deeded as affordable housing.

Chamber: The Chamber's commitment to the towns it services and their investment in resources to assist in growing businesses. Plans of launching an Economic Boost Program to offer Coaching, Education, Grants accessibility; Produced an electronic Gift Guide with good amount of merchants participating; Holiday BAsH at Bill Millers. 97 registered. Great networking event and ribbon cutting for Cancion Tequila, a Branford based company. Next Net90 is January 20th at Evergreen Woods

Selectman's Report: John Lust elected not to be reappointed to P&Z. Fred Russo moved up from alternate, and Sharon Huttner has been newly appointed by BOS as an alternate. Chuck Andres and Marci Palluzzi have been reelected as Chair and Secretary respectively. Special meeting in January in an attempt process some of the applications at P&Z in a timely manner; New position filled in Engineering Department as assistant; Meeting later in week with Amazon officials to discuss their sustainability efforts for the proposed new building at Exit 53; Affordable Housing Committee working with Town Planner and hired consultant to conform with State Statutes. Online survey has ended, however additional comments & participation from the public is welcomed.

Chair Report: Next Town Center event is "First Night" on Friday, January 7th to be held on the Town Green. Will include a Bonfire, Music, Ice sculpture and more.

Old Business: None

New Business: 2022 Meeting Schedule Motion to accept by Alisa, Seconded by John. APPROVED Unanimous. Demolition applications: 69 Lanphiers Cove Camp; 33 Island View Ave; 230 Pleasant Point Rd. No objections on any; Branford Early Learning Center requesting donation. Deferred to Jamie for Town Hall process.

Public Comment: Kate Galumbus acknowledged Sip, Shop & Stroll as a beneficial event that encourage people to come into town. If monthly events can be publicized outside of Branford as well to draw outsiders into town.

Announcements: Next Meeting = January 19, 2022

Meeting adjourned @ 8:51 am

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca

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

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