



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2022

Joe Trapasso Community House - Church St – Branford

Present: Cathy Lezon (Chair), Elena Cahill, Al Canosa, John Leonard, Jared Schulefand, Rich Sgueglia, Alisa Waterman, First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove, Dee Jacob, and Perry Maresca (Staff)

Call to Order: Chair Cathy Lezon called the meeting to order at 8:06am and announced the appointment by the Board of Selectman of Jared Schulefand as a new EDC member. Jared is the owner of Home Restaurant on Main Street, celebrating 11 years. He is also a consultant in the restaurant industry, and has been active with the Town Center Merchants for many years.

Approval of Minutes: November Minutes: Motion to accept by Al Canosa; second by Elena Cahill. Motion carried.

Reports:

Staff Report: Town Center news... Shop, Sip, and Stroll was a success. Collaboration of breweries, distributors, and restaurants with the stores and offices around the Town Center was a welcome addition that was well received. Next year's event will be a little later and coordinated with additional joint advertising/marketing. ...Annual "First Night" in Branford is scheduled for Friday, January 6, 2023 from 6:00p-7:30p. The event includes Free Entertainment, Bonfire, Ice Carvings, S'Mores and more!

Planning & Zoning: 5 Indian Neck Avenue, Addition of small building to house tanks for additional brewing capacity at Stony Creek Brewery... 175 Cherry Hill Rd, Public hearing set for January 5th regarding an 11 Lot Subdivision connecting to Autumn Ridge Rd

Chamber: Dee Jacob- Debit Gift Cards through Yiftee's "Keep Local Dollars Local" program has thirteen businesses participating so far. Seven from Branford and six from Guilford. Coaching for Business Success program is continuing with additional "How-To" videos in the works.

Selectman's Report: Funding was approved through the RTM and now a comprehensive analysis of all the athletic fields, including those at the parks, will be conducted. Goal is to determine the condition and use of each facility, calculate the needs, and consider the requirements for improving and maintaining each location. BL Company will be submitting and reporting information at public meetings. ...New software is being implemented for improved budgeting process at Town Hall beginning in January.

Old Business: Attraction; Retention/Expansion; and Workforce Development subcommittees have been formed. In an effort to set goals of 2023 and game plan for each group, the Chair will set up independent meetings in the coming weeks prior to our January EDC meeting. ...2023 EDC Regular Meeting Schedule was presented with a change from last month's approved dates to now the 1st Wednesday morning of each month at 8:00am, with the exception of January that will remain as the 3rd Wednesday (1/18/23). A motion by Elena Cahill and seconded by Alisa Waterman, carried unanimously.

New Business:

Correspondence: Demolition application for 65 Goodsell Point Rd and another at 38 Summer Island Rd received no objections.

Public Comment: None.

Announcements: Next Meeting = January 18, 2023

Recognition Award: Presented to Bill O'Brien by Branford's Economic Development Commission's Chair, Cathy Lezon, for nearly four decades of volunteering and sharing his expertise on the EDC. First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove was accompanied by former First Selectman Unk DaRos and former First Selectwoman Judy Gott as each spoke, acknowledging Bill's accomplishments during their respective tenures. State Senator Christine Cohen and State Representative Robin Comey presented Mr O'Brien with a citation from the State of Connecticut's General Assembly noting his 38 years on the EDC.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46a. Motion by Alisa Waterman, seconded by Elena Cahill. Motion carried.

Celebration breakfast honoring Bill O'Brien's extensive service with the EDC, and the Town of Branford as whole, followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca
Staff

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Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

Cathy Lezon (Chair) · edc@branford-ct.gov

Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Frank Hird · John Leonard

Jared Schulefand · Richard Sgueglia · Alisa Waterman

First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio] · Dee Jacob, Shoreline Chamber [ex officio]

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