



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Meeting Minutes February 17, 2021

Commission Members Present:

Elena Cahill, Al Canosa, Jamie Cosgrove, Joe Gordon, John Leonard, Cathy Lezon, Perry Maresca, Bill O'Brien, Richard Sgueglia, Alisa Waterman

Call to order: Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting, held via Zoom, to order at 8:01

Consent Agenda: Motion to accept by Elena Cahill, Second Al Canosa

Selectman's Report: First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove introduced the Branford Clean Air Committee. The members from the Clean Air Committee are looking to help inform businesses on alternative energy programs. This would include incentives from utilities for lighting, heating, hot water and refrigeration to name a few points. They are looking for help from the EDC as well as the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce to reach out to the local businesses.

Planning and Zoning: The Inland Wetland department is reviewing their fee structure. There is a proposal for a new vehicle delivery building located at 132 N. Ivy Street. There is a new Brewery being proposed in Branford around the Route 139 area. There is a proposal to open a daycare facility located at 312 East Main Street. Mariners Landing project has been approved.

Chamber Report: Ellen Carucci reported that there will be a Legislative Forum with Vin Candelora, Sean Scanlon, Robin Comey, and Christine Cohen. The Annual Chamber Meeting will be virtual this year and held on Thursday February 25. There were two ribbon cutting ceremonies, one at Splash located in the center of town and the other at Absolute Rug Cleaning.

Chairman's Report: A barn located on the Branford Land Trust property needed to be taken down. The plan was changed to not demolish it but to dismantle it, and utilize the timber elsewhere throughout the State. The Limewood Avenue seawall has been delayed by a month. There is a soil test being done at the proposed Aldi property which is moving forward. Construction at Exit 55 apartment complex has not yet begun. Exit 53 lawsuit has been withdrawn. Sema 4 is going public. CBIA report from 2020 showed costs from regulations and need for skilled labor are two top concerns for CT businesses. Quality of life is a main factor to employees.

Research Committee: Al Canosa stated that all the material was sent to the web designer in January and waiting on her. Need to determine who the contact at the town would be to answer any questions regarding the EDC website. Al Canosa will follow up with the First Selectman.

New Business: Chairman Perry Maresca suggested that the EDC budget request will be the same amount as last year at \$17,035.00 all commission members approved.

Old Business: There was a continued discussion regarding the effect on Bio Science companies as well as other types of businesses regarding tax credits from the town of Branford. Tax bills are out and the deadline for appeals is coming up. The plan to meet with the First Selectman, Perry Maresca, Alisa Waterman and the Town Assessor will be pursued.

Public Comment: Wayne Cook suggested that his presentation to the EDC be delayed to the March meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9:31, Motion to adjourn by Al Canosa.

Next Meeting: March 17, 2021

Perry Maresca
Chairman
Branford Economic Development Commission

edc@branford-ct.gov

Elena Cahill • Al Canosa • Joe Gordon • John Leonard • Cathy Lezon • Perry Maresca [chair] • William O'Brien • Richard Sgueglia • Alisa Waterman • First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio]

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