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Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

EDC Meeting October 21, 2020

Present:

Perry Maresca, Richard Sgueglia, John Leonard, Cathy Lezon, Al Canosa, Elena Cahill, Joe Gordon, Alisa Waterman

Call to Order: Chairman Perry Maresca called the meeting to order 8:26am

Consent Agenda: Motion to accept the minutes by Al Canosa, Second by John Leonard

External reports...

Selectman's Report: None

Planning and Zoning: Major projects, including Tidal Basin, Mariners' Landing, 375 Metro LLC, Branford River Commons, Queach Corp @ 434 East Main St, and others continued into October's P&Z meetings. Additional apartment buildings at Summit Place are currently being framed. Other individual housing developments are approved and under construction, while others are at the tail end of the process.

Chamber Report: The Chamber has moved their offices from Branford to the Guilford Gatehouse on Route 1. The annual business directory, published by Shore Publishing, is coming out shortly. The chamber recently hosted Sexual Harassment Training. There has been a Ribbon cutting in Guilford. Women of Excellence awards was held virtually this year. The Chamber is hosting a webinar on finance and election info hosted by Edward Jones.

Chairman's Update: Branford continues to attract film producers to capture scenes in town. Exit 55 construction is close to being done. Azitra has raised 17 Million dollars through venture capital fundraising. Sema4 has entered into a research agreement with Janssen Research & Development to optimize oncology clinical trials. Madison Polymeric Engineering has been selected by ManufactureCT's October "Did You Know...?" campaign for Connecticut Manufacturing Month. U.S. Senator Chris Murphy named Tangen Biosciences in Branford "Innovator of the Month".

Committee Reports and Unfinished Business...

Research Committee: Al Canosa reported on the website. He is working with the webmaster on the EDC Website, there will be 5 pages of info for now. Bill O'Brien has supplied pictures for the website. Al Canosa will continue to work to get the website complete by November 16.

New/Other business: There are still concerns about the exits and local traffic flow along Route 1 areas. Perry discussed the feasibility of different development options on the property located at exit 56. It was discussed to have P&Z adopt a plan to change this area, as well, to hybrid zoning like the areas around Exit 53, Exit 54 and Exit 55 were newly designated in the POCD of 2019. Joe Gordon made a motion to support this change at Exit 56 to hybrid zoning, John Leonard 2nd the motion. Motion passed with 6 members in favor and 1 opposed.

Old Business: Perry Maresca asked about tree work in Branford. Cathy Lezon reported that Eversource continues to remove trees throughout Branford.

Public Comment. -Kate Galambos stated concerns with the development of the area by exit 56 and the effect it may have on the environment and wetlands and stated that the current zoning for this area is industrial.

Meeting adjourned: 9:20am

Next meeting: November 18th

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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