



## Economic Development Commission

## Branford, Connecticut

### EDC Meeting December 16, 2020

Present: Perry Maresca, Richard Sgueglia, John Leonard, Alisa Waterman, Jamie Cosgrove, Bill O'Brien, Elena Cahill.

**Call to order:** Chairman Perry Maresca call the meeting to order at 8:02

**Consent Agenda/Minutes:** Motion to accept, Rich Sgueglia, Second Bill O'Brien

**Selectman's Report:** The first Selectman reported that the System Planner is leaving the Town of Branford, there is a search for a replacement. Tree lighting event as well as many others had to be cancelled due to Covid 19.

**Planning and Zoning:** At 11/19 meeting EDC Chair endorsed the Mariners' Landing project and the Vox Church project. Vox was approved with conditions. Mariners' and Tidal Basin projects tabled to Special Meeting on 12/3. 2020 Metro 375, LLC and Metro Star Company, LLC received approval for PDD as step to construct apartment complex at Days Inn property by Exit55. During Special Meeting of 12/3 regarding Tidal Basin and Mariners' Landing projects. Tidal Basin (apartments) was denied. Original approval of Tidal Lodge (hotel) is still an option as previously approved. Mariners' Landing requires list of conditions that will be presented to the P&Z by Town Planner at a January meeting. Prospect of approval seems more promising.

**Chamber Report:** Sheri Cote is stepping down from the chamber at the end of the month. Ellen Carucci is joining the chamber as the new program director. Also, there will be a webinar tomorrow to discuss Family Medical leave. The annual business directory/chamber guide is out. There will be a Ribbon Cutting the new Splash Boutique located at 1010 Main Street, the old Town Pharmacy.

**Chairman's Report:** Covid-19 continues to affect all of us. Town Center businesses have participated in Town Hall's initiative: working together; promoting Main Street. New restaurant: DOMA opening this weekend at corner of Main & Monroe (old Strega restaurant). AstraZeneca acquires Alexion. In November, AstraZeneca announced possible Covid-19 vaccination. vBranford-based Wren Laboratories received the federal OK to sell a new saliva-based test it has developed that aims to help employers and others easily collect samples to test for COVID-19. Movie filmed in Branford during November: "NorthernShade". Stony Creek Quarry, Main Street outside The Elm onto Bradley Street, and other areas of the town were utilized. Christopher Rucinski, native of Branford, worked on major Hollywood films. Very appreciative of EDC and Town Hall, as well as many others that assisted him with filming locations. Covid brought him home to visit family (as LA shut down). Spent time writing the script, and then directing/producing the film. This is about an Army Vet from War in Afghanistan. Brother goes missing. Searches with PI. Thimble Island Brewery is noted in the film at different scenes with actor wearing T-shirt, using Cozy-cup, and drinking a can of SeaFoam while on his boat. SCRCOG = South Central Regional Council of Governments: in conjunction with the Town of Branford and Town of Guilford and the Connecticut Department of Transportation conducting a study of the Route 146 corridor from the western Route 1 (North Main Street) junction in Branford to the eastern Route 1 (Boston Post Road) junction in Guilford. The project study efforts are currently in the Existing Conditions phase. Any suggestions or requests need to be sent in by 12/31/2020. Send to: Stephen Dudley, Deputy Director/Director-Of-Transportation, SCRCOG, Washington Ave, 4th Floor West, North Haven, CT 06473 203-234-7555 or sdudley@scrcog.org

**Research Committee:** The website team currently is dealing with Covid 19 and the website is held up from being completed.

**New Business:** New meeting calendar needs to be approved, motion by Bill O'Brien to accept and motion approved. Also, Alisa Waterman requested that a discussion during the November meeting regarding concerns with the Branford Tax collector be added, all members were in favor of adding the information. Alisa Waterman reported that she had received feedback from several local bioscience companies regarding unprofessional treatment by the Branford Tax Assessor. She has repeatedly requested a meeting with the Tax Assessor to discuss the application of the Personal Property Tax exemptions for equipment used for R&D in bioscience companies as allowed by the State of Conn. Jamie Cosgrove and Perry Maresca promised to follow up to ensure that the meeting was scheduled.

**Old Business:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Meeting adjourned:** 8:34

**Next Meeting:** January 20, 2021

Perry Maresca

Chairman

Branford Economic Development Commission

[edc@branford-ct.gov](mailto: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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