



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – February 21, 2018

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, W. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, Sheri Cote [Shoreline Chamber] and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the January minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported that bids for the Sybil Creek bridge project will be accepted in late summer, and that the Harbor Street bridge project is expected to begin this spring.
 - B. **P&Z** – A public hearing is scheduled for March 1st for a special exception for change of use for 10 Sylvia St.; a site plan has been submitted by Coldwell Banker to re-locate to 1020 Main Street; the next POCD listening session is scheduled for February 22nd.
 - C. **Chamber** - Chamber CEO Sheri Cote shared copies of the Chamber's first published Annual Report, announced that the "Women in Business" luncheon will be February 27th at The Moorings, and that the annual Chili Challenge will take place on April 7th in Branford's town center.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca summarized the February 7th POCD listening session and reminded everyone that BCTV carries the sessions on its government channel and also live streams it on Facebook. He also distributed copies of a proposed EDC FY2018-19 budget and invited comment. Suggestions changes included seeking a lower sponsor rate with CCIM, increasing the line item for the website and for brochures and other promotional materials, and to request new funding for a shuttle bus for boaters and vacationers, tourists and other visitors.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that the kickoff meeting for the new website is scheduled to immediately follow the meeting, and strongly suggested that the EDC dovetail a marketing process with the new website.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that New Haven is conducting a feasibility study for broadband development project in the city; staff will follow up to see if Branford can also participate and/or what the cost would be for its own study. It was suggested the need for broadband service be identified in the POCD and to research Stamford's efforts.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** P. Indeck reported on the biotech workgroup's meeting with BioCT CEO Dawn Hocevar, and plans to follow up with her on March 5th to discuss a spring forum and to identify other efforts to promote the industry in town, including with ABCT. J. Gordon commented that there is a need for small sites to accommodate small businesses. The Business Recognition award was presented to Chris and Lloyd Conlin of Lenny's Restaurant, acknowledging over 50 years of serving the shoreline.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
 - B. **Announcements/Adjourn:** CERC's website team was introduced to the full commission before it met with the website work group. The next EDC meeting is Wed., February 21st; the next EDC award presentation will be to Lenny's at that meeting. With no further business, J. Gordon moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:01 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary]