



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

February 20, 2019 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, P. Indeck, C. Lezon, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman J. Cosgrove, guest Walter Maguire, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m., and thanked R. Sgueglia for serving as acting chair for the January meeting
- II. **Consent Agenda:** B. O'Brien moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the January minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported that the grand list grew by .4%, the Bd. Of Finance and RTM have approved the creation of a coastal resiliency fund with an initial \$1m from the undesignated fund balance and that proposed legislation is expected to be reported favorably by the Environment Committee allowing towns with such funds to invest them, plans are underway to improve and enhance Tyler's Green along Main Street near the Blackstone, and a 375th wrap-up event is being planned for January 2020.
 - B. **P&Z** – Accepted: time extension on 83 School Ground Rd. for a special exception for an automotive repair facility; public hearing is set for Feb. 21st.
Approved: waive for a public hearing for Blackstone Library's request to waive a condition to its special exception regarding sidewalk materials; tabled until Feb. 21st.
Also, the POCD became effective February 1st; and Workforce Alliance has initiated a new "Skill Up" program to meet manufacturers' workforce needs in the region.
 - C. **Chamber** – R. Sgueglia reminded everyone that the Chamber's annual dinner will be Thursday, the 21st at Amarante's in New Haven. Also, it will hold a CERC presentation on the economy on February 27th. Three new businesses have joined the Chamber, all from Madison.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca opened discussion regarding the EDC's plans for an "Economic Forum" on March 28th with presentations by the First Selectman, Eversource VP Mike Ausere, and CERC VP for Research Allissa DeJonge. C. Lezon and P. Indeck added that it will be held at Stony Creek Brewery, catered by Branford High School's culinary program, and will host a targeted audience of officials and representatives from the town, region, utilities, area universities, and local business leaders.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa advised that efforts have been increased to move the website design and launch forward.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia shared information received from Bill Vallee in the state's broadband office Frontier is challenging GoNetSpeed's use of utility poles for its new service, most likely causing their delay in analyzing Branford's viability for its service.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Chair P. Maresca and the First Selectman presented Walter Maguire and Madison Polymeric engineering with the EDC's Business Recognition Award, who provided an overview of the company and of its start in his garage.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:** There was no new business raised.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No comment was offered by the attending public.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wed., March 20th. With no further business, A. C. Lezon moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]