



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – January 17, 2018

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, R. Sgueglia, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** C. Lezon moved, seconded by J. Gordon, to accept the consent agenda and the December minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – In the First Selectman's absence, it shared that bids were opened on the 12th for the Harbor Street bridge project.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved PDD modification and site plan for a proposed hotel at 4-6 Indian Neck Avenue. Copies of a January 16th article from the Hartford Business Journal on the proposed hotel were distributed. Town Center Merchants raise \$2,600.00 from its 2nd annual holiday wreath auction for Feed Branford Kids.
 - C. **Chamber** - R. Sgueglia reported on Chamber president Sheri Cote is on board and had her first board meeting the day before. The Chamber's annual meeting will be January 26th at WoodWinds; East River Energy's Don Herzog will be one of the awardees. Efforts are underway to use the upcoming Hartford Boat Show to promote shoreline tourism.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca advised the POCD's listening session on development issues is scheduled for January 24th, and asked Cathy Lezon, EDC's representative on the POCD steering committee, to provide details on the project, who then outlined the process, the objectives of the upcoming session, and described the booklets being produced for the meeting that she and staff reviewed at a recent meeting with P&Z's POCD consultant, She concluded asking all EDC members to share with her via email in advance of the 24th their thoughts, suggestions and ideas on the topic. Discussion followed on various related issues, including development at the I-95 exits, obtaining northbound access at Exit 53, and establishing shuttle service from/to the town center to promote tourism. Staff will follow up and send out the links to the booklets, current POCD and other relevant information.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa began the report on the EDC website design search, noting that it began in earnest almost a year ago. R. Sgueglia then continued the report: 29 developers bid on the site, bids were reviewed by a committee, then interviews with the top three firms. Following the completion of due diligence, the winning firm will be contacted with contract to follow up with a contract.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia asked staff to report on the municipal gain use before PURA; a petition is before commission to do away with "municipal gain", or use, that towns now have. Staff drafted a letter on behalf of the First Selectman objecting to the request and asking to be an intervenor. Staff secured cooperation and signatures from neighboring Guilford and Madison and submitted a joint letter to PURA.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** C. Lezon and P. Indeck, as the EDEC biotech work group, and staff will meet with new CURE/BioCT president and CEO Dawn Hovevar later in the month to identify what additional efforts the town can make to attract new and expanding biotech operations. Also, a "ABCT" event, co-sponsored by the EDC, will held on January 30th at Stony Creek Brewery to facilitate start-ups and expanding companies to meet with potential investors. The program is conducted under the auspices of CTNext and CT Innovations. The commission's site visit and tour of FreeThink Technologies were discussed, as well as plans for its December 7th reception at the Blackstone for CURE's outgoing and incoming CEOs.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
 - B. **Announcements/Adjourn:** 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]