



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

January 16, 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, C. Lezon, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, P. Indeck, Chamber president Sheri Cote, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Acting Chair R. Sgueglia called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved, seconded by C. Lezon, to accept the consent agenda and the December minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – In the First Selectman's absence, staff listed the 375th "First Night" bonfire celebration, follow-up meetings with the town's state delegation, and new groups formed for SustainableCT, Clean Energy Task Force and Coastal Resiliency as items the First Selectman wanted to share.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved: minor changes to approved building design for 698 Main St. election of commission officers, with C. Andres as chair and M. Palluzzi as secretary; Withdrawn: zone change for 49, 81-111 Commercial Parkway from BL to IG; Public Hearings on January 17th: special exception for motor vehicle repair facility at 83 School Ground Road; proposed adoption of 2019 POCD. Also included was Workforce Alliance's new "Skill Up" program designed to meet manufacturing workforce needs.
 - C. **Chamber** – President Sheri Cote distributed copies of the Chamber's list of "upcoming events" and of the 2019 "Superheroes" calendar, announced that a legislative committee/government relations committee has been formed, that a new logo has been launched, that a BAH will be held on Tuesday the 22nd at Tyco Printing, the annual dinner will be on Feb. 21st at Amarante's in New Haven with awards nominations currently being solicited, and a CERC economic forecast program to be held on Feb. 27th.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – R. Sgueglia acknowledged the passing of former EDC member Neal Crowley; he reported a meeting was held with the First Selectman to review the permitting and inspection process in light of Premier Auto's experience; it was suggested to invite the business owner in as part of the follow up effort. EDC event - Cathy, Peter and staff planning an EDC event for late 1Q 2019 with an update from the First Selectman on development projects in town and with a key note address by a guest speaker with a focus on the economy; venue & food service set. Need to determine date/s to consider presented the EDC's 2019 meeting scheduled and asked for its approval.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa shared copies of the sitemap for the new website highlighted to show which sections have copy completed and submitted; CERC is drafting copy for section 4, "About Us," and is collecting testimonials for inclusion in the new site.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that staff has provided data to GoNetspeed for its initial business analysis and remains in contact with company officials regarding the project's feasibility.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** C. Lezon reported that plans are under way for an EDC event to be held late in late March with a featured speaker and a focus on our local and shoreline economy; staff has arranged to have the event at Stony Creek Brewery and catered by Branford High School's culinary program. A reminder was made that the EDC will present its next award to Madison Polymeric, Inc. at its meeting on February 20th.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:**
 - B. **Public Comment:** Lauren Brown commented that she appreciated the commission's work and especially with the POCD and Branford Citizens for Responsible Development used that process to build bridges and hopes to continue to do so.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wed., February 20th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by C. Lezon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]