



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – July 19, 2017

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, Town Engineer Janice Plaziak, Town Planner Harry Smith and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the June minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.

III. External Reports

A. Selectman's Report – the First Selectman reported that the Community House project is going out to bid within the week with bids due on Aug. 23rd, bids on the Shoreline Greenway Trail project across the Tabor projects are due next week, P&Z's public hearing on the WIS school project is on July 20th with expected state funding dependent on passing a budget. A meeting on the NE corridor quad rail proposal will be held at 7pm

B. P&Z – Approved applications: 618 Main St. for printing, personal training and retail; SolarCity's 9 acre solar array on Tabor property, and a lot line revision at 229-233 East Main St.; public hearings have been continued to July 20th for a car sales at 998 W. Main St., lighting modifications at BranHaven Plaza, parking at 152 Montowese St., and for changes to R1 & R2 zoning regulations. Atlantic Wire demolition is underway with the Montowese St. wall and sheds down and now working on building #3. P&Z will hold two TOD meetings on July 28th for marinas & maritime businesses and property owners in the TOD footprint.

C. Chamber – A. Canosa and R. Sgueglia reported that the Chamber's Festival expo was a success, its annual Lobsterbake is that evening, the 19th, at the Owenego, and there are now 610 members.

Chairman's update – P. Maresca reported that an application is expected soon to P&Z on the proposed boutique hotel. He also advised the commission that while he enjoys chairing the EDC, he would relinquish the position if another member is interested. EDC members C. Lezon, R. Sgueglia, and J. Leonard serving on the TOD steering committee offered their perspectives on the project commenting on the high caliber of the consultants, the solid attendance and participation, the importance of the outreach to have a successful outcome. J. Gordon cited the issue of a lack of direct rail service to major airports with international flights, and that the proposed high speed train service will not change that. P. Maresca suggested including the Richlin's Plaza property within the TOD scope. C. Lezon offered that Eversource's physical work on decommissioning the Meadow Street substation, near the center of the TOD study focus, will continue through September and that then they will work with PURA for disposition of the property; the town has expressed interest in the parcel.

IV. Committee Reports and Unfinished Business

A. Research Committee: A. Canosa and staff have finished creating a table of components based on sample website RFPs from other towns and have begun drafting the EDC's.

B. Resource Committee: R. Sgueglia shared a news article on Comcast's broadband offer in New Haven, but that problems remain with service fluctuations and with the pricing.

C. Retention/Recruitment Committee: Sema4, formerly Mt. Sinai, will attend the September meeting for its award presentation; Richlin's is scheduled for the November meeting.

V. New Business

A. Main Street – Gateway Project: Town Engineer J. Plaziak reviewed the power point presentation from the July 13th public meeting to explain the proposed roundabout project and related "complete streets" project for the town center. The project, with \$3 million in state funding and the Town's share of \$300,000 for design work, anticipates traffic projections for the next 20 years.

B. Public Comment: No public comment offered.

C. Announcements/Adjourn: Annual sidewalk sale is this weekend along Main St. The EDC and CURE will sponsor a biotech "mixer" on Thursday September 21st at Stony Creek Brewery. EDC's next meeting is Wed., September 20th. With no further business, B. O'Brien moved to adjourn; seconded by C. Lezon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]