



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

July 18 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, Sheri Cote [Chamber] and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** R. Sgueglia moved, seconded by J. Gordon, to accept the consent agenda and the June minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported on the recent ratings review with Standard & Poor's and their reaffirmation of the town's AAA bond rating and provided information on the upcoming bond sales for \$18m for the Walsh School and Community Center projects. He also announced that the Shoreline Greenway Trail will be officially opened in September.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved special exceptions for: retail at 250 N. Main St., wholesale food distributor at 50 E. Industrial Rd., extension of 595 Corporate Circle's PDD, amending the zoning map for 657 Main Street for medical office; a public hearing is set for July 26th for a special exception for mixed use of business and an apartment at 504 Main St.; an application has been submitted for a special exception modification for 348 West Main St. [BranHaven Motors], for a zoning map amendment for 155 Main Street from BL to R-1. A POCD meeting is scheduled for July 19th at Fire HQ.
 - C. **Chamber** – Sheri Cote reported on the BAH at Elements Massage, a ribbon cutting at Coldwell Banker's new office on Main St., the annual Lobster Clambake that evening at the Owenego; an August 2nd event in North Branford, the Taste of the Shoreline in August in Guilford, and a non-profit conference in November. P. Maresca suggested including Brian's Hope, the Kate Foundation and CT Hospice. Workshops are being offered on how to maximize Chamber membership; a six-chamber event "Women in Excellence" with Ann Nyberg as emcee is planned. Conversations with gubernatorial candidates are underway, the next one with Oz Griebel on Friday the 23rd at Guilford's Community Center.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca expanded on the first Selectman's comments regarding the S&P ratings report noting its recognition of the town's business development in addition to its management and fiscal practices. He also acknowledged the passing of Marcia Chambers of the Branford Eagle.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa advised that the copy for the new website is being drafted focusing on the major 14 of the 43 pages.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that contact has been made with GoNetSpeed and a conference call is being planned with company officials to determine interest and viability of the company installing broadband service.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Chair Parry Maresca and First Selectman Cosgrove presented the EDC Business Recognition Award to Bob and Michelle Paoella of Brother's Harley Davidson. Bob Paoella commented on their starting the business in 1977, moving to Branford in 1998, running a family business with sons Bob, Jr. and Ralph involved, and offering insight into the motorcycle industry.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business** – J. Gordon commented on signs of economic growth along Rte. 139 and believes business opportunities exist in the field of tv networks. P. Maresca reaffirmed the EDC view on the POCD.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** With no meeting scheduled for August, the next EDC meeting will be Wed., September 19th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]