



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – June 21, 2017

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, E. Lazarus [Chamber], Town Planner H. Smith, guests Ed Crowley, Sr., Bob Criscuolo, Al Lombardi, Jim Pretti, Joe Sepot, Jennifer Yoxall, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He suggested that the agenda be re-ordered in order to accommodate guests from Stony Creek Brewery
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the May minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – the First Selectman reported on discussions with CT Transit regarding service from the train station to various employment sites in town. Also, Eversource Energy's pole installation is nearing completion and the decommissioning of its Meadow St. substation will extend to the end of the year.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved applications: Brandfon Honda for a storage trailer on Jefferson Rod. and Dow Realty's plans to renovate 618 Main St. for use by a retail printer. Applications tabled include that for a car sales operation at 998 W. Main St. and for an industrial building at 101 North Branford Rd. Public hearings are scheduled for a proposed vineyard on Buckley Road, for a 2nd solar array on the Tabor property, and to modify parking and drainage at 152 Montowese St. The demolition of the Atlantic Wire complex will begin on the east side of the property with the Montowese St. wall and proceed west to 1 Church St.; remediation has been completed, utilities have been cut, and combustibles removed but a detailed plan and schedule has not yet been submitted for review and approval.
 - C. **Chamber** – E. Lazarus reported the Festival Expo was a success, tourism map is nearing completion, work on the 2018 directory is starting, membership is at 603, meeting the 600 member goal, the last segment of the CGI videos is being finished, and the annual Lobster bake is July 19th at the Owenego.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca commended H. Smith on the first TOD meeting, noted that the Guilford EDC will begin its own business recognition award after observing Branford's process, and that staff is working on the next site visit and tour at Ancera and Arconic.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa and staff have mapped the contents of the Brookings SD website and are drafting an RFP to be issued in the coming months.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported on the June 5th conference with Guilford and Madison to state broadband coordinator Bill Vallee about Axia and next steps. Other towns are moving forward, such as Manchester issuing an RFP, and other possible avenues are being explored. It was noted that cable companies and others are supporting proposed legislation to eliminate the municipal gain on the light poles that towns now have; if passed, it would make it impossible to contract with new vendors to establish broadband service in their communities.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** the business recognition award was presented Stony Creek Brewery's founder Ed Crowley, Sr. and his development team including architect Joe Sepot, engineers Bob Criscuolo and Jim Pretti, and Al Lombardi. E. Crowley provided an overview of the Brewery's operation and its impact on the local economy.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **The Tidal Basin, LLC:** Plans for a 34 room hotel was presented by Ed Crowley, Sr. and team members J. Sepot, B. Criscuolo, and J. Pretti, displaying layout and renderings of the proposed facility and described the project. A ground breaking is anticipated for 2018.
 - B. **Demolition:** there were no questions or concerns regarding the demolition of 48 Wakefield Rd.
 - C. **Public Comment:** No public comment offered.
 - D. **Announcements/Adjourn:** EDC's next meeting will be Wed., July 19th. With no further business, B. O'Brien moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]