



# Branford, Connecticut

## Economic Development Commission

June 20 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, W. O'Brien, 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 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the May minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
  - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman provided an update on COG's Exit 53 corridor study intended to provide options of how to possibly add additional access maps and to reconfigure the Rte. 1 intersection. He responded to a question regarding Tweed Airport that nothing has changed and will not until the next legislative session at the earliest, and that the COG is supportive of the runway paving.
  - B. **P&Z** – Approval with conditions has been given to a site plan modification to include an ATM as part of the drive-thru bank at 330 East Main St; public hearings were closed on a special exception for retail stores at 250 N. Main, with a vote expected July 12<sup>th</sup>; a public hearing will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> on a request to change the zone designation at 121 N. Main from R-1 to BL; the POCD public meeting was held on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Blackstone.
  - C. **Chamber** – Sheri Cote reported on Saturday's expo at the Festival as a success and thanked board members who volunteered to help and that more booths were sold than in prior years; a BAH hosted along with East and West Haven chambers at Tweed airport had approximately 50 attendees, training sessions on how to post on the chamber's website are being held over the next couple of weeks; a government affairs committee is being formed and will focus on issues such as the Tweed expansion.
  - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca advised that the EDC budget was approved by the RTM; Eversource's Meadow St. substation project continues on schedule; CCIM's annual event will be held at Stony Creek Brewery on Wed., June 20<sup>th</sup> with the EDC as a sponsor; suggested that the EDC revisit the issue of tax incentives for qualified businesses; and, asked that the report by the Commission on Fiscal Stability and Economic Growth be re-sent to EDC members and then discuss what steps Branford can take. Town Planner Harry Smith then offered an update on the POCD, highlighting the online and telephone surveys, email access for comments, listening session input, and that comments are accepted until June 30<sup>th</sup>. A final draft will then be reviewed and revised before being forwarded to P&Z for the commission for adoption and then RTM adoption in November. P. Maresca reviewed his comments from the June 30<sup>th</sup> and solicited support to re-submit them to the steering committee for consideration. EDC members were asked to provide staff with any additional comments or suggestions to be included with them.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
  - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that a meeting was held with CERC earlier in June on the website's project and that the logo is in development. End of July is the target date for launch.
  - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that Hamden and the Northwest CT region are now active in broadband efforts, and that a lawsuit has been filed against PURA on its municipal gain decision.
  - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Staff reported that BIO Boston and UConn TIP are both opportunities to promote the town before the industry. The current list of candidates for the EDC business award was distributed followed by discussion. It was agreed that the Blackstone Library would be added to the list. B. O'Brien then moved, seconded by A. Canosa, to present Anderson-Krause with the award; motion passed. P. Maresca moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to make Robinson Tape an awardee later in the year; motion passed. Staff will follow up accordingly.
- V. **New Business**
  - A. **New/other business** – There was no new business offered.
  - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
  - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next EDC meeting will be Wed., July 18<sup>th</sup>. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
T. Elton [recording secretary]