



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

June 19, 2019 - Minutes

Present: P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman J. Cosgrove, Shoreline Chamber president Sheri Cote, and T. Elton [staff]. Also attending were guest speaker and OR&L vice president Frank Hird, and Jack Charlow of People's United Bank in Branford.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** C. Lezon moved to accept the consent agenda and the May minutes as presented; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman advised the Community House is expected to be ready by the end of the summer, WIS's phase 1 will be finished in December and the staff will then move into new offices, cafeteria and library; the Blackstone Library and Indian Neck fire house are on schedule. He provided details on a newly formed economic development coalition with Durham, Guilford, Madison and North Branford; each town will contribute \$3,000 towards a regional marketing approach. EDC's consensus was positive and supportive; C. Lezon will participate on behalf of the EDC.
 - B. **P&Z** – Applications withdrawn: [1] to modify parking requirements at 165/195 Main St. and [2] to amend zoning regulations for a new use category for "Farm Event Venue" as a Special Exception. Applications: special exception for [1] new accessory use for "non-agricultural farm events," and [2] a special exception for new warehouse at 8 Sycamore. June 6th public hearing included an amendment to allow food prep and on-site consumption as accessory use for Tidal Basin, Inc. at 2, 5, and 4-6 Indian Neck Ave. and a modification for storm water drainage for site plan and coastal site plan; the June 13th hearing included a waiver of public hearing for 657 Main St.; July 11th for zoning regulation amendment for "non-agricultural farm events." P&Z approved [1] special exception for two additional loading bays to 50 East Industrial Rd., [2] site plan to replace an existing office trailer with a new double wide trailer on No. Main St. with conditions for storm water drainage, [3] a 12-unit multi-family on Rte. 1 with conditions for public access easements, [4] for on-site food prep & consumption at 2, 5, 4-6 Indian Neck Ave., and special exception for medical offices at 657 Main St. It was noted that K&G Printing is now part of Tyco.
 - C. **Chamber** – S. Cote reported on the success of the Festival, numerous ribbon cuttings, and a legislative update on June 27th at the Guilford Community Center.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca reported that the Trolley Museum will hold a second event for Branford officials on Thursday, September 5th; sema4 has invited the EDC to tour its new labs on July 16th; BioCT will attend the July meeting to invite the EDC to tour its incubator space at Groton Commons and to further discuss efforts to develop a biotech strategic plan for Branford.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** Staff reported that efforts continue to complete the website.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that GoNetSpeed continues in New Haven, legislation on broadband failed, and the arrival of 5G in 4 years is expected to eclipse broadband development.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Peter Indeck confirmed that the EDC's business award will be presented to FreeThink Technologies in July, to CT Ortho in September and BCTV in November.

V. New Business. New/other business

- A. New/other business:** OR&L VP Frank Hird briefed the commission on PA 19-75 and how it will improve the CT Transfer Act and its impact on contaminated properties and that efforts will continue to further improve the law on it; he also shared his opinion that Branford “gets economic development right.”
- B. Public Comment:** Branford resident and People's United Bank manager Jack Charlow commented that he was attending because he heard the commission was doing very good work.
- C. Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, July 17th. With no further business, R. Sgueglia moved to adjourn; seconded by C. Lezon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]