



# Branford, Connecticut

## Economic Development Commission

Special Meeting March 28 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, W. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, Sheri Cote [Shoreline 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:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the February minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
  - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman was unavailable.
  - B. **P&Z** – Approved with conditions: special exception for an above ground fuel tank at Bruce & Johnson's Marina; special exception for a fitness studio at 10 Sylvia St.; for tenant office space for Coldwell Banker at 1020 Main St.; with modifications, amendments to zoning regulations regarding planned development districts [PDDs]. Public hearings scheduled: April 5<sup>th</sup> for a special exception for retail stores at 250 North Main St.; for a site plan for renovations to a fast food restaurant at 1007 West Main St.; and April 19<sup>th</sup> for a special exception for a fitness studio at 875 West Main St.
  - C. **Chamber** - Sheri Cote shared copies of the Chamber's schedule of events, including a "Business Breakfast" [3/29] with former state rep. Pat Widlitz on the Commission on Fiscal Stability recent report, and the annual "Chili Challenge" [4/7]. She requested photos to use on the Chamber's new website, and noted BPS Superintendent Hamlet Hernandez's interest in speaking to the business community.
  - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca reported that the POCD's public listening sessions have ended, a telephone survey will follow, and a draft is expected in April. He also reported that Bd. of Finance budget hearings went well and expects the EDC's funding request to be sent to the RTM. He also reported on discussions regarding the use of the former Wightwood School by Hamden Hall, BACA's interest in Canoe Brook as an art center, and Shoreline Alliance's interest in establishing a presence in town.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
  - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that the website project is proceeding and being managed well by CERC, and that he and staff continue to work on a strategic plan
  - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported on a recent conference call with a broadband consultant regarding possible next steps. It was agreed that Branford does not a feasibility study and that it will be more productive to put energy and resources into identifying possible partners. Staff will follow up with East Hartford and other towns engaging with broadband service suppliers such as SciFi.
  - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** P. Indeck reported on a recent meeting with BioCT CEO Dawn Hocevar and plans to be part of the international Bio Expo this June in Boston, her suggestion to host a Branford Bio event on site at a biotech company with a "lunch & learn" for local CEO's, and to create an inventory of biotech space available in town. The updated list of prospective awardees for the EDC business award was distributed and reviewed. Following discussion, C. Lezon moved, seconded by J. Gordon, that the next award be presented to American Polyfilm, Inc.; motion carried. Staff will follow up with arrangements for an April presentation. C. Lezon reported on Eversource's decommissioning of their Meadow St. substation, with completion expected in late April, taller poles installed, increasing voltage, and improving system redundancies to the East Main St. station. Also, Eversource has been more aggressive with tree trimming and removal as another effort to avert power outages during storms.
- V. **New Business**
  - A. **CEDS** – Barbara Malmberg of REX Development reviewed the draft CEDS with background on the project's committee structure, approach, and findings; a draft is available on REX's website. A final report will be presented to the REX and to SCCRCOG for approval, then sent to the US Dept. of Commerce.
  - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
  - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next EDC meeting is Wed., April 18th; the next EDC award presentation will be to American Polyfilm, Inc. With no further business, C. Lezon moved to adjourn; seconded by P. Indeck, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, T. Elton [recording secretary]