



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

March 20, 2019 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman J. Cosgrove, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. He thanked the Holiday Inn Express and manager, Anisul Islam, for inviting the commission to see the hotel and use its meeting facility.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved to accept the consent agenda and the February minutes as presented; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported that the newly created coastal resiliency fund was cited in Standard & Poor's March 14th Global Ratings Report, that proposed legislation modeled after Branford's resiliency fund resolution has been reported favorably by the General Assembly's Environment committee, and that the Board of Finance will vote on Monday, March 25th, on the proposed 2019-2020 budget. The S&P report will be emailed to the EDC members. The S&P Global report will be emailed to EDC members.
 - B. **P&Z** – Public hearing: March 21st for a special exception for a proposed new convenience store at 165-195 Main Street [Pepe's];
Withdrawn: [1] application to amend zoning regulations to allow a local business hybrid [BL-H] with the applicant expected to re-apply in May; [2] application for a special exception for a proposed restaurant at 736 E. Main St., with a request to amend zoning regulation to include "farm event venue" expected. It was noted that 15-35 NE Industrial Road, the Northeast Technology Center, recently sold for \$16.9m. P. Indeck inquired about the status of the Atlantic Wire project; expectations are that it is moving forward.
 - C. **Chamber** – No report available.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca reviewed plans for the EDC's March 28th "Economic Forum" with presentations by the First Selectman, Eversource VP Mike Ausere, and CERC VP for Research Allissa DeJonge. He also reported on the 12th senate district's business development effort which has identified taxes and workforce as priority issues.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa requested that the link to the draft website be sent to EDC members and to renew efforts to compete the project.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that legislation is still before the General Assembly and does not expect any follow up by GoNetSpeed until those efforts conclude; he added that service continues to drop drastically during peak usage in the afternoons and the cost to have direct access to fiber is \$500 - \$600 per month, far too high for most businesses.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** The list of nominated companies was reviewed. Following discussion, R. Sgugelia moved, seconded by A. Canosa, to present Ray Figlewski and the Branford Road Race with the commission's next business recognition award; motion passed. Staff will follow up.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:** Demolitions: there were no concerns or questions regarding the demolition of 163 Linden Avenue or 6-11 Linden Avenue. After discussion, it was agreed that electronic copies of agendas, minutes, etc. can replace hard copies.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No comment was offered by the attending public.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wed., April 17th. With no further business, R. Sgueglia moved to adjourn; seconded by P. Indeck, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary]