



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – May 17, 2017

Present: J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, E. Lazarus [Chamber], Town Planner H. Smith, guests Guilford EDC chair Mark Wasserman and EDC director Brian McGlone, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. He welcomed Guilford EDC members and initiated introductions.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** B. O'Brien moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the April minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – the First Selectman reported that the town budget was approved by the RTM, including EDC's funding request for a website; the Bd. Of Finance will meet on the 29th to set the mill rate. He also reported on a recent meeting regarding transportation issues in town, including bus service and the need to shuttle visitors from marinas and hotels to the town center. H. Smith then provided an overview of the TOD study underway and asked for the EDC's input and support throughout the project. C. Lezon suggested that the marinas be included in the study's footprint although they are outside the ½ mile radius of the train station. The first public meeting will be on Monday the 22nd.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved applications: to renovate 618 and 698 Main St., for a contractors yard on E. Main St. next to the Tilcon tracks; public hearings are scheduled for a new fitness center on School Ground Rd.; plans are still expected for the demolition of the Atlantic Wire buildings. Eversource has begun to decommission its substation on Meadow St.; C. Lezon will provide updates on plans for the property as they are available.
 - C. **Chamber** – E. Lazarus introduced the Chamber's intern from Branford High School, reported membership is approaching its target of 600 at 593, that plans for this year's Expo at the Festival are on track, the video shoot went well, that its "Women in Excellence" program will be held at Woodwinds.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca offered his perspective on both the budget approval and on the video shoot; it was noted that each town's segment can be posted separately. He also recapped the EDC's visit to Cintas and Defibtech, and that another visit is being planned.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** RFPs for EDC websites are being collected and will be used to draft an RFP to be used as the new fiscal year approach and the website funding is available.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that a conference call is being coordinated with the three shoreline towns to speak with state broadband coordinator Bill Vallee about Axia and next steps. Guilford EDC chair M. Wasserman suggested that Google be approached, as well, and will follow up.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** the business recognition award's history and purpose was shared with the Guilford guests, and following discussion the next three recipients were agreed upon. C. Lezon moved, seconded by J. Gordon, to present the award to Stony Creek in June, Mt. Sinai Labs in September and Richlin's in November; motion passed unanimously. Staff will follow up accordingly.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New Business** – There were no objections to the proposed demolitions of 233 East Main and 1 Hemingway Streets. Copies of Workforce Alliance's annual report was distributed; the organizations works closely with the town and has provided over \$1 million dollars in training and placement grants and funding to Branford businesses. The 2017 Waterway Guide was also circulated, highlighting the town's new article and featuring B. Obrien's iconic photo of kids pier jumping in Stony Creek.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment offered.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** EDC's next meeting will be Wed., June 21st. With no further business, J. Gordon moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Leonard, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]