



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

May 16 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, P. Maresca, W. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, guests Victor, Matt and Paul Cassella from APi, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the April minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported the following: the General Assembly did not take up a bill to allow the extension of Tweed Airport runway for expanded service; the Town's FY 2018-2019 budget has been approved by the RTM and the mill rate will be set by the Bd. Of Finance at its meeting on May 21st; state funding has been provided for the Harbor Street bridge project; the Shoreline Greenway Trail section through Tabor is under construction; DOT will hold a public information session on Thursday, May 24th, and plans for this year's fireworks have not been finalized.
 - B. **P&Z** – A public hearing has been scheduled for a new application for a drive-thru bank at 330 E. Main St.; public hearings are scheduled for May 17th for a special exception for retail at 250 N. Main St., and for a storage trailer at the Chowder Pot restaurant. Coldwell Banker realtors are in the process of moving into the former Book & Card Shoppe, the a first draft of the 2018 POCD will be posted on the town website with a public meeting held in late June.
 - C. **Chamber** – No report was available.
 - 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 held at Stony Creek Brewery on Wed., June 20th 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.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that scheduling conflicts and business development commitments have slowed progress on the website development and drafting a strategic plan and will resume in the near future. Efforts will be made to meet with CEREC in June.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia suggested following up on GoNet in light of its New Haven initiative; staff will follow up accordingly.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** American Polyfilm. Inc.'s Victor, Matt and Paul Cassella were presented with the EDC's Business Recognition Award. Discussion followed, highlighting that its workforce has doubled since it moved to its new facility, business has increased with 70% to medical use and exports now include Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, and Russia, and operating are 24/7 including in its old nearby facility; they also reported their positive experience with town officials as a new and expanding business. The next award will be presented to Brothers Harley Davidson at the June meeting.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business** – J. Gordon suggested contacting Butterfly Technologies' Jonathan Rothberg regarding his expansion plans; staff will follow up. B. O'Brien acknowledged the recent passing of Bob Criscuolo and Gerry Camion, both very active members of Branford's business community. He also reminded everyone that the Memorial Day parade is scheduled for Monday, May 28th and WWII vets will be honored. Following a brief discussion regarding recent phone calls about Costco, P. Maresca asked if there was still support; no objections were voiced.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next EDC meeting will be Wed., June 20th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]