



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

May 15, 2019 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, P. Indeck, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman J. Cosgrove, and T. Elton [staff]. Also attending were guest speaker Jamison Scott of the New Haven Manufacturers Association, Branford High School administrator Pam Castro, Shoreline Greeway Trail chair Judy Miller, FreeThink Technologies CSO Alisa Waterman, and resident Wayne Cooke.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved to accept the consent agenda and the April minutes as presented; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported shared that the RTM approved the proposed FY 2019-2020 budget and that it now goes to the Board of Finance where a new mill rate will be set. He also reported that Branford is part of a 5 town coalition with North Branford, Guilford, Madison, and Durham in developing a regional marketing approach to promoting our shoreline region for new and expanding businesses; he will provide more details at the EDC's June meeting for its consideration and approval. He also recapped the Trolley Museum event.
 - B. **P&Z** – Staff reported public hearings have been continued to May 16th for a request for a parking requirement modification for 165 Main St. and for a zoning regulation amendment to create a new use category for a "farm event venue. A June 6th public hearing is scheduled for zoning map amendments to allow food preparation and consumption and for storm water drainage and coastal site plans for Tidal Basin Inc.'s proposed hotel. A special exception was approved o relocate a fence relocation at Bruce & Johnson's marina for its above ground fuel storage tank.
 - C. **Chamber** – R. Sgueglia shared that he's received reports that the event was a success.
 - D. **Chairman's update** – P. Maresca recapped the Shore Line Trolley event and how it can fit in the town's tourism scheme, alerted everyone to the new visitor & relocation guides produced by REX; announced an upcoming biotech event at Jackson Labs in Farmington, along with the EDC interview with Yale's William Nordhaus is now airing. He invited P. Indeck to comment on the recent meeting with BioCT to work closely with them and others on a bio-focused recruitment and retention plan for Branford that inventories existing lab space, identifies specialized workforce availability, and quality of life. He then read a letter by and at the request of Wayne Cooke regarding his charges against the town.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa and staff reported that efforts continue to complete the website by the end of the fiscal year.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported in spite of efforts to diminish municipal gain provisions, Go Net Speed continues its work in New Haven and is hopes they will include Branford in the next phase.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Peter Indeck led a discussion on recent awards and the current list of nominees. He then moved that the EDC's award be presented to the following companies in the upcoming months: FreeThink Technologies in June, CT Ortho in September, and BCTV in November. The motion was seconded by A. Canosa, and passed unanimously.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:** There were no questions on the demolitions at 158 Clark & 27 Highland Aves. Jamison Scott, executive director of the New Haven Manufacturers Association was introduced and then gave a powerpoint presentation on manufacturing in CT and our region, its challenges and potential.
 - B. **Public Comment:** J. Miller provided an update on the Tabor section of the SGT, plans to improve the section between Pine Orchard and Birch Roads, and interest in make the SGT part of tourism attractions.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 15th. With no further business, B. O'Brien moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

T. Elton [recording secretary]