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Joe Estepin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Economic Development Commission Branford, Connecticut

Meeting MINUTES

Sept 6, 2023 8:00am

Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St – Branford

Meeting was called to order at 8:02am. In attendance were Commissioners Al Canosa, Jim Fennell, Frank Hird, Karen Ragonese, Jared Schulefand, Alisa Waterman, Rich Sgueglia (Chair), First Selectman James Cosgrove, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, Perry Maresca (Staff)

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept July Minutes by A. Canosa, Second by J. Fennell, Passed.

Reports: Staff Report: Sidewalk Sale on Main St held in August and Nepalese Festival held in July drew people to the Town Center. Old Donovan's Reef being revamped into new restaurant. Town Center Merchants continue to encourage and explore ways of drawing people to town. Updated Main Street reconstruction plans will be presented later this month.

Planning & Zoning Report: 107 Montowese St approved for offices and retail. Informal discussion held at July P&Z meeting regarding possible plans for old Regal Cinema site. Fire headquarters to house the new municipal fueling facility. To accommodate growth of existing business, buildings at 31 and 33 Business Park Drive will be connected by constructing additional lab space between the two buildings. 32 Acorn Drive is being considered for a fire house to help service the east side of town. Lisa's Boot Camp is moving to a larger facility at 67 North Branford Rd.

Chamber Report: Women of Excellence Awards were presented last month by the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce. The luncheon held at Woodwinds honored Branford residents Jeanette Mobeck and Stephanie Herzog. Sidewalk Sales in Branford and Guilford were promoted through the Chamber including advertisements in the shoreline papers and live feeds during the event. Upcoming events include a Business after Hours at Stewards of the Land on September 14th and the Fall Festival Shoreline Event to be held on Saturday, the 14th of October.

Selectman's Report: BACA to hold an event the second weekend in December in the old Board of Education building as an outreach to local merchants. Police Station design should be available within 12-13 months. Trails from Stony Creek to Pine Orchard continue to be enjoyed by many. Town offers recreational passive use of our trail system. WIS project to update and upgrade the athletic fields will be presented at upcoming P&Z. In October, BL engineers expect to have results of study that would improve all of our parks and fields. DEEP approved town's application for a boardwalk along the river that will connect South Montowese St to Indian Neck Ave. Town Engineer will present updated Main Street Renovation Project designs to EDC and Town Center Revitalization Review Board on Sept 27th. Transportation from train station to areas of town continues to be a topic of consideration.

Old Business: Update on Landscape Regulations being considered by P&Z: **Shirley McCarthy & Peter Hentschel - Applicants Zoning Regulation Amendment – Add definitions to Section 2.2, extensively revise Section 6.3 (Landscaping), add new subsection to Section 6.13 regarding Fencing, and add/re-designate Appendices. Application #23-4.5 A/R 4/20/23 & PH opened 6/15/23 & continued to 7/6/23... (TREE REGULATIONS).** EDC is communicating with applicants. Sub-group has been formed with Shirley, Peter, Alisa, Frank, Harry, and Perry to discuss EDC's concerns. Effort underway to revise or eliminate sections that could bring an economic negative impact to businesses, residents, and taxpayers if enacted.

New Business: Correspondence: Request from Fischer Excavating to demolish the structure at 8 Pawson Rd received no objections. There was no other correspondence. There were no Public Comments.

Announcements: Next Regular Meeting October 4th, 2023

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:02 by A. Canosa and Seconded by F. Hird

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca

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Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Jim Fennell · Frank Hird · Karen Ragonese · Jared Schulefand · Alisa Waterman
Richard Sgueglia (Chair) edc@branford-ct.gov
First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio]

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