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Joe Trapasso
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

Meeting MINUTES

October 4, 2023 8:00am

Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St - Branford

Meeting was called to order at 8:06am. In attendance were Commissioners Al Canosa, Jim Fennell, Frank Hird, Karen Ragonese, Rich Sgueglia (Chair), Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, Perry Maresca (Staff)

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept September 6th Minutes by A. Canosa, Second by F. Hird, Passed.

Reports:

Staff Report: **Tree Lighting and Parade scheduled for Saturday after Thanksgiving. **Shop, Sip, and Stroll on 12/7 followed by kick off of BACA event at old Board of Education building through the weekend. **Possible addition to our EDC that will bring us up to nine members. **Main Street Reconstruction plans presented to the EDC on September 27th. Received mostly favorable reviews. Funded through a Grant.

Planning & Zoning Report: **Apartments (26 Cherry Hill Rd) and small subdivision at Totoket Rd both continued to Oct. **9 Elm St Approved for parking lot and drainage improvements. **WIS Sports Field Improvements including multipurpose, exterior restrooms and small recreation area. Dark-sky lighting to be used on the fields during game time. **61 East Industrial Rd Indoor/Outdoor recreation still with Inland Wetlands, then to P&Z. **Wells Fargo exterior lighting modification improvements awaiting Town Center Review Board, then back to P&Z.

Chamber Report: D. Jacob reported that the membership of the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce continues to grow and is now at 603. **Ribbon Cuttings and Milestones continue to abound. **Shoreline Festival scheduled for October 14th from 11a-7p. **Health & Wellness Open House November 4th from 9a-1p at Soundview Y. **Legislative Forum November 8th from 5:30p-7:30p at James Blackstone Memorial Library Auditorium.

Selectman's Report: No Report

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).* S. Hutner stated that she just recently did some research and felt that our regulations are not a hindrance. The most current data (2022) from SCRCOG shows that Branford has recorded 410 new businesses, while Guilford, East Haven, and Madison have recorded 295, 297, and 217 respectively. D. Jacob advised that many of that could be small or individuals licensing as an LLC. F. Hird noted that much of Branford's draw stems from the city sewers and city water that most businesses need or desire. E. Cahill noted that Branford is listed as one of the few towns in the State of CT that has been awarded the "Sustainable CT" recognition. P. Maresca read his notes and showed the PowerPoint that was presented at the September 21st P&Z meeting for the benefit of any of the EDC members and others that had not attended.

New Business: Correspondence: Request from Lauzier Construction to demolish the structure at 7 Bayberry Lane received no objections. There was no other correspondence. There were no Public Comments.

Announcements: D. Jacob expressed concern she and the Shoreline Chamber is hearing from concerned businesses as new property owners are presenting large rent increases. F. Hird noted the success of the BioCT event held at Stony Creek Brewery last month. Most attended event that BioCT has ever held throughout the state. Solidifying our town as a place the industry embraces.

Next Regular Meeting November 1st, 2023

Motion to Adjourn was made at 9:05 by A. Canosa and Seconded by J. Fennell

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Maresca

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Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

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

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