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Economic Development Commission Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from **March 6, 2024** held at Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St – Branford

Meeting was called to order at 8:05am Present were Commission Members: R.Squeglia (Chair), A.Canosa, J.Fennell, F.Hird, Mary Grande from the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce, and Dale Kroop from REX.

Motion to approve the February Minutes after correcting the spelling of Fennell was made by A.Canosa and seconded by J.Fennell. The Motion carried.

Staff Report: P.Maresca advised the commission that another Independent movie is being filmed with scenes and locations throughout town. The production manager filmed here last year and enjoyed all the Branford has to offer. CORR (Collective Oyster Recycling & Restoration) is coordinating with both the Economic Development, and the Compliance & Sustainability departments. Goal is to explain and promote a program for the town restaurants to be able to recycle oyster and clam shells back into the waters and shell beds. Public hearing from the State regarding a bill in the Senate to increase funding and schedules on the Shore Line East (SB277) back to pre-Covid levels. The letter of support from an economic development point of view was submitted. The merchants, restaurants, other businesses and organizations in Town are developing a website encouraging people both in and outside the town to SHOP, DINE, EXPLORE BRANFORD. The 2nd Annual Authors' Book Signing event is being held on Saturday May 11th from Noon to 3pm. The EDC Budget Request of \$36,350 as requested by this commission, was submitted. Selectman and Finance will review. Entire FY2024-2025 Budget gets presented to the Board of Finance March 18th, 19th, 20th.

Planning & Zoning Report: Presentations and discussions continue for many projects along Route 1. The used car dealership at West Main. An auto body repair shop at one location and a car wash at another property along North Main. Possible PDD at the old Regal Cinema property is being proposed at that site on East Main. The P&Z Department is comprising list of individuals to work on updating Landscaping Regulations.

Shoreline Chamber of Commerce: Mary Grande advised that the Annual Excellence Awards Breakfast was a success. Honorees included Branford's Legacy Theatre (Non-Profit) and The Parthenon Diner (Branford Community Partner). Non-Profit conference being held on March 26th. The Chamber launched its second e-Magazine on March 1 which includes a Community Calendar showcasing the three towns of the Chamber (Branford, North Branford, Guilford).

Selectman's Report: No Report

Old Business: Subcommittee updates.. Motion was made by F.Hird and seconded by J.Fennell to purchase for \$300.00 an updated, bonafied list of businesses to assist the Retention/Expansion, Marketing/Branding/Attraction, and the Workforce Development committees. Passed Unanimously. An RFP will be comprised to enable the commission to utilize SEO through Facebook and other social media.

New Business: There were no Demolition Applications in the mail as of March 4th. Received notice that the Board of Selectman have appointed Susan Fainstein to serve on the Economic Development Commission.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10am after a motion by F.Hird and seconded by A.Canosa. Next Regular Meeting to be held on **April 3rd, 2024**.

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

475-837-3622 pmaresca@branford-ct.gov

Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

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

Branford Economic Development Commission - 1019 Main Street - Branford, CT 06405 - 203-315-0637 - www.branford-ct.gov