



Discover
BRANFORD

RECEIVED

2025 MAY -4 A 8:35

Joë E. Arpin
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: April 2, 2025 held at the Branford Town Hall - 1019 Main St

Meeting was called to order at 8:00am. Present were Commission Members: R. Squeglia (Chair), E. Cahill, A. Canosa, J. Fennell, F. Hird, K. Ragonese, J. Schulefand, and Perry Maresca (Staff).

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept Minutes by A. Canosa, seconded by F. Hird, passed unanimously.

Staff Report: P. Maresca- The 8th Annual Chili Challenge takes place Saturday, April 5th all along Main St. The 3rd Annual Author Book Signing Fair will be held on Saturday, May 10th. Caius Farm Brewery was just listed as #5 in USA Today's Ten Best New Breweries in the country. Tweed-New Haven Airport has been nominated by Newsweek Magazine as one of the top small airports in the country. HVN's growth was from 50,000 passengers in 2019 to 600,000 in 2024. The Friends of the Blackstone Library's September Tent Book Sale will be relocating this year due to anticipated construction at the Green and on Main St. Likely site will be at the open field between Indian Neck School and the Concession Stand at the baseball fields by Foote Park. FreeThink Technologies has moved into their new, larger facility at 688 East Main St.

Planning & Zoning Report: P. Maresca- [IWWA] The items heard at the Inland Wetlands meeting throughout the month of March were concerning residential properties. [P&Z] Planning & Zoning will be welcoming a new Town Planner, Michiel Wackers on April 14th. Mr. Wackers brings over 20 years of experience with municipalities in both CT and OH. The position for Assistant Town Planner is currently available. All the retail space, which occupies the ground floor of the front building, has been filled at the new apartments built by Metro Star at exit 55.

Commission Members' Reports: Jeff Vernon, Branford native and current resident has submitted his request to be a member of the EDC. If approved by the Board of Selectman at their April 2nd meeting, Jeff will join the Commission at our May meeting.

Shoreline Chamber of Commerce: R. Squeglia reminded everyone of the Chamber's Chili Challenge this Saturday 4/5/25.

Selectman's Report: Jamie Cosgrove- No Report.

Old Business: - **Subcommittee Reports:** **Attraction** - CT Post did article about all the activity on social media. Marketing and social media has seen great results. Next step to expand this success will be marketing through an electronic billboard along I-95. **Retention** - Discussed possibility of a visit to one of Branford's construction companies that specializes in commercial buildings.

New Business: **EDC FY26 Budget** was approved by RTM's Rules & Ordinance committee. If entire budget is approved by full RTM, then the Mill Rate should drop to 21.49 (currently at 30.48). Most businesses may then enjoy less of a tax burden. Recent update of expenditures by the EDC fall in line with keeping within our FY2025 that ends June 30th. We will look into ways of supporting ShopDineExploreBranford, including possible Google Ads, to assist and promote businesses in town. Motion made by J. Fennell and seconded by R. Squeglia for the Commission to accept the anticipated budget expenses. Motion passed.

There were no demolition applications, letters, or public comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:21am after a motion by K. Ragonese and seconded by A. Canosa.

Next Regular Meeting to be held on **May 7th, 2025** at the lower level conference room of Town Hall.

Perry Maresca
Economic and Business Development Manager
475-837-3622

Richard Squeglia (Chair) • 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 <https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>