



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

November 21, 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, Chamber president Sheri Cote, guest Ed Pepe [Robinson Tape & Label] and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the October minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman advised that the town's 375th anniversary will be celebrated throughout 2019 with a series of events beginning with a "First Night" party on Friday, January 4th on the town green; a press conference with more details is scheduled in the near future with information to appear throughout the local media. He also reported that he recently met with the newly-elected state legislators and plans to invite them back after they have received their committee assignments to meet again with him and with department heads regarding the town's interests and priorities. The Yankee Institute's recent report listing Branford as one of the state's "Top Ten Business-Friendly Towns" was distributed and discussed.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved: proposed revisions to the POCD with a public meeting set for Jan. 17th to approve the plan before forwarding it to the RTM for adoption. Public hearings are scheduled for Nov. 15th for a CAM modification for Legacy Theatre and for modifications to allow for a dental office at 906 W. Main St, and on Dec. 6th for a special exception to allow an indoor recreation facility at 53-59 School Ground Rd. Branford High School's Community Partnership has a Manufacturing Forum scheduled for Dec. 6th.
 - C. **Chamber** – President Sheri Cote distributed the chamber's new "Small Business Saturday" tool kit, reported on its "Business Breakfast" series, and announced Guilford's tree lighting on Nov. 30th.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca presented the EDC's 2019 meeting schedule and asked for its approval. A. Canosa moved to accept the schedule; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion passed. Staff will file the schedule with the town clerk. He also commented on the First Selectman's announcement of the 375th celebration and offered the EDC's support, and encouraged everyone to participate in the Town Center Merchants 2nd annual "Sip, Shop & Stroll" event on Dec. 6th. He also congratulated B. O'Brien on a successful Veterans Day parade and Sports Hall of Fame awards program.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that, after discussion with staff, a request will be placed with CERC for assistance in finishing the copy needed for the website's development.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that the meeting with GoNetspeed officials went well and that follow up is expected by them.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Robinson Tape & Label president Ed Pepe received the Business Recognition Award, followed by discussion about the company's ISO certification, a customer base that includes Medtronics, Thule, Trader Joe's, among many others. C. Lezon suggested that the EDC hold an economic development forum for early 2019 to acknowledge past awardees and that would include a featured speaker. She, P. Indeck and staff will work on preliminary plans.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:** There were no questions or concerns with the demolition of 675 East Main Street. J. Gordon announced that his business partner, Matt Schell, was awarded a matching grant from the CT Center for Advanced Technology for a new product development. A. Canosa reminded everyone of Small Business Saturday and that is why his company sponsors the Jazz Festival and other events that support small businesses in town.
 - B. **Public Comment:** Lauren Brown commented that she appreciated the commission's work and especially with the POCD and Branford Citizens for Responsible Development used that process to build bridges and hopes to continue to do so.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wed., December 19th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by R. Sgueglia, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]