



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes –October 18, 2017

Present: J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, and T. Elton [staff].

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to accept the consent agenda and the September minutes as presented; motion passed unanimously.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – the First Selectman reported on the state budget situation, its expected impact on cities and towns, how the town has prepared for it, and how it might affect the Walsh School project, particularly as it becomes more expensive as time passes. He also advised the commission that Standard & Poor's has reaffirmed the town's status as a triple-A rated municipality.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved: special exception to Branford Hills Health for an addition to add a pharmacy at 189 Alps Road; special exception for an industrial building 11 101 N. Branford road; withdrawal by Branford Building Supplies for a farm/painting operation on Buckley Road; public hearing scheduled on November 2nd for a special exception for a place of worship at 79 Business Park Drive.
 - C. **Chamber** - R. Sgueglia announced that the Chamber's last annual Dancing with the Stars event will be held on November 11th, the annual dinner is planned for January, 2017 saw the chamber's strongest financial performance and biggest member retention, now at an all-time high of 620 members, and the Search committee has three finalists for the executive director's position.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca commented that the Atlantic Wire demo continues on schedule; the TOD project's last public meeting was October 17th; C. Lezon will represent the EDC on the steering committee for the upcoming POCD; discussion was then initiated on the recent site visit to Ancera and meeting with CEO Arjun Ganesan. He then asked C. Lezon, with assistance from fellow commissioner P. Indeck to form a task force to identify and recommend ways to attract more biotech and related industry to Branford. Also, CURE has announced Branford resident Dawn Hocevar as its new CEO; it was agreed that the EDC should host an event to welcome her and as a "farewell-thank you" for Susan Froshauer.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that EDC's website RFP was posted and advertised on Monday with a deadline of Friday, November 10th for proposals.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that with no state budget in place yet it's unclear if the state's broadband policy office will remain funded.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** *Richlin's* has been notified of the commission's plan to present it with its award at the November meeting; staff will follow up and confirm their participation. P. Maresca suggested that *Lenny's* be presented with the EDC's award to acknowledge its upcoming 50th anniversary, its operation as a family business, its role as a tourism destination, and its contribution to civic and non-profit activities; consensus was to present *Lenny's* with the award in early 2018.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Demolition application:** There were no concerns with the demolition of 25 East Haycock Pt.
 - B. **Public Comment:** No public comment offered.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** C. Lezon announced that Stony Creek Brewery will be acknowledged by CERC with an award at its November 30th "Celebrate CT!" event at the Bushnell; she will circulate details. The EDC's next meeting is Wed., November 15th. With no further business, B. O'Brien moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]