



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

October 17, 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, 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 8:02 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** R. Sgueglia moved, seconded by A. Canosa, to accept the consent agenda and the September minutes with corrections as noted; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman reported that the Greenway Trail was officially opened on September 21 and now runs from Stony Creek to Tabor Road, near the town center; both the Board of Selectman and the RTM have approved the acquisition of the 14+ acre ZuWallack property abutting Ecology Parl. He explained that \$3m in federal LoTSIP funding is in place for the round-about on Main Street and that SCRCOG recently approved another \$1m for drainage on Meadow Street to alleviate flooding, expected to be available in 2021. He also announced the formation of a committee for the town's 375th celebration.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved: special exception with conditions to expand parking at 348-360 West Main St., and for a solar array at 869 West Main St. Public hearings are scheduled for October 18th for a multi-family development on Cherry Hill Rd. and on November 1st for a "major home occupation" on Prospect Street. Thimble Island Brewery has withdrawn its application for a restaurant at its brewery but is expected to re-apply in the near future. Jamie Frederick has been appointed the new ZEO. The POCD Steering Committee has forwarded its final draft to P&Z, recommending its approval and adoption; a public hearing is scheduled for October 17th. REX has asked the CEDS committee chairs [including Branford] to conduct an update review on the 2018 plan's goals and objectives; staff will follow up.
 - C. **Chamber** – No report available.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca congratulated the First Selectman on his Leadership award from the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce, and to B. O'Brien and J. Leonard on their re-appointments to the EDC; the EDC's annual report has been completed and filed with the town clerk's office and copies distributed; a certificate of appreciation was received for the commission's support of the summer jazz festival. It was suggested having DMV operate a license renewal service in Branford, as it does in West Haven; J. Gordon moved, seconded by R. Sgueglia, to work on having the service in Branford; motion carried. Gordon suggested an attempt be made to interview Nobel prizewinner William Nordhaus of Yale and aired on BCV; staff will follow up. C. Lezon will research the CT Energy Efficiency's available funds; J. Cosgrove offered that, based on the town's recent experience, project funding is still available.
- 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 a meeting with GoNetspeed's CT sales rep is planned.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** P. Maresca reported that a letter has gone to Robinson Tape & Label inviting them to the November meeting for an award presentation. After reviewing the nominees' list, P. Indeck moved, seconded by C. Lezon, that the February award be made to Madison Polymeric; motion passed. Following discussion, J. Gordon moved that dealerships be asked about the feasibility of their handling registration on site for new purchases.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business:** There were no questions or concerns with the demolition of 2 Elizabeth St. Joe Criscuolo, chair of the greater New Haven chapter of S.C.O.R.E., was introduced. He provided an overview of SCORE's mission and its interest in developing a workshop series in Branford. Staff will follow up to develop a schedule and program agendas for the series.
 - B. **Public Comment:** There was no public comment.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** The next meeting will be Wed., November 21st. With no further business, C. Lezon moved to adjourn; seconded by B. O'Brien, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]