



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

Minutes – September 20, 2017

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

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** R. Sgueglia moved, seconded by J. Gordon, to accept the consent agenda and the July 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: amendments to R-1 and R-2 zoning regs to reduce lot size, maintain development patterns and prohibit height or square footage increases. Also approved: applications for car sales at 998 W. Main St., new lighting for BranHaven Plaza, parking improvements at 152-158 Montowese St., site plan modifications for a veterinary hospital at 125 No. Branford Road, concrete pads & bollards at 4 Pin Oak Dr., conversion of the 1st floor to offices at 23 Laurel St., special exception for retail activity at 25-29 Business Park Dr., and a five year extension to complete site plan approval at 50 Maple St. Tidal Basin LLC withdrew its application for a hotel on Indian Neck Ave., but is expected to re-submit in the near future. Public hearings on Oct. 5th are set for an addition to Branford Hills Health at 189 Alps Rd., for modifications to the application for 101 N. Branford Rd., and for coastal site plan for a farming operation on Buckley Rd. Atlantic Wire buildings are completed down; crews are now crushing and removing the debris.

C. Chamber - Ed Lazarus announced the next BAH at Sarah's, the 2nd anniversary of the Net90 series, the "Women in Excellence" awards dinner on October 11th honoring Eunice LaSalla at WoodWinds, the annual Chowder Challenge on October 14th on the Guilford Green.

D. Chairman's update - P. Maresca and the First Selectman presented Ed with a "Certificate of Appreciation" upon his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his work on behalf of the Branford business community. He also announced that P&Z is inviting the EDC to its September 26th special meeting on the TOD study, and hoped that EDC members will participate in the POCD project that will begin soon. He then suggested the creation of an EDC work force to report on how best to recruit more biotech here.

IV. Committee Reports and Unfinished Business

A. Research Committee: R. Sgueglia reported on A. Canosa behalf that a draft RFP for the EDC website has been reviewed and revised with hard copies distributed to the commission for their review and approval. The RFP will be posted once reviews and revisions are complete.

B. Resource Committee: R. Sgueglia shared a news article on Comcast's broadband offer in New Haven, but that problems remain with service fluctuations and with the pricing.

C. Retention/Recruitment Committee: Sema4 Genomics' Chief Laboratory Operations Officer Todd Arnold was presented with the EDC's "Business Recognition Award". Dr. Arnold updated the commission on the labs expansion in both space and workforce, and emphasized that Branford and the shoreline have a great potential for more biotech.

V. New Business

A. Demolition application: There was no concern or questions regarding the demolition of 45A Coheco.

B. Public Comment: No public comment offered.

C. Announcements/Adjourn: B. O'Brien advised that Veterans' Day parades may end due to poor attendance. J. Gordon provided an update on his succession plans for his company, citing resources available, such as CIC, that are excellent planning resources for him. CURE event is Thursday, September 21st at Stony Creek Brewery. EDC's next meeting is Wed., October 18th. With no further business, B. O'Brien moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]