



Branford, Connecticut

Economic Development Commission

September 19, 2018 - Minutes

Present: A. Canosa, J. Gordon, P. Indeck, J. Leonard, C. Lezon, P. Maresca, B. O'Brien, R. Sgueglia, First Selectman Cosgrove, Sheri Cote [Chamber] and T. Elton [staff], guests Mike and Morgan Krause.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman P. Maresca called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.
- II. **Consent Agenda:** A. Canosa moved, seconded by J. Gordon, to accept the consent agenda and the July minutes as presented; motion passed.
- III. **External Reports**
 - A. **Selectman's Report** – The First Selectman announced that the town has received a SAFR grant from the federal government to help fund hiring additional firefighters; the solar array on the Tabor property is active; the Greenway Trail will officially open on Sat., Sept. 22nd; BioCT held its annual event at Stony Creek Brewery further promoting Branford as a desirable location for biotech. He also commented on how development impacts all town hall operations; and, congratulated Joe Gordon on his appointment to the RTM.
 - B. **P&Z** – Approved: special exception for mixed use of a business and an apartment at 504 Main St. [Lucy's Tailoring]; extended deadline to a year and a half for the Northeast Foods/Burger King to complete its required landscaping; scheduled a public hearing on Oct. 4th for a special exception to locate a restaurant at 16 Business Park Dr. [Thimble Island Brewery]; reviewed a pre-application for Legacy Theatre's interior and exterior plans; and held the final POCD public meeting on Sept. 13th, with the committee voting to send the final draft to the P&Z Commission recommending approval and adoption.
 - C. **Chamber** – Sheri Cote reported: the Chamber held forums with the gubernatorial primary candidates and included other shoreline chambers; a ribbon cutting will be held on October 2nd at Chowder Pot Restaurant; the 3rd annual "Women in Excellence: event with Ann Nyberg will be held October 10th; the Chamber will also partner with the Greater New Haven Chamber to host shoreline conversations with the three gubernatorial candidates; a non-profit conference will be held on Nov. 1st at WoodWinds; a business breakfast will be held October 17th with Guilford First Selectman Matt Hoey; "Small Business Saturday" celebration will be held November 24th; the deadline to be included in the Chamber's Directory & Guide is at the end of the week.
 - D. **Chairman's update** - P. Maresca asked everyone to review the draft annual report and to let staff know of any suggested revisions. He also distributed and referred everyone to the list of award recipients and of current nominees, and asked that everyone review the nominee list for the 2019 awards suggestions.
- IV. **Committee Reports and Unfinished Business**
 - A. **Research Committee:** A. Canosa reported that some text and a logo has been provided to the web designer and suggested that funding be requested to have a copywriter assist in preparing copy for the new website in an effort to get it ready and live as soon as possible.
 - B. **Resource Committee:** R. Sgueglia reported that contact has been made with GoNetSpeed and a conference call is being planned with company officials to determine interest and viability of the company installing broadband service.
 - C. **Retention/Recruitment Committee:** Chair Parry Maresca and First Selectman Cosgrove presented the EDC Business Recognition Award to Mike and Morgan Krause of Anderson-Krause Insurance.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **New/other business** – Staff is working with SCORE to schedule a series of workshops over the upcoming year to help start-ups and expanding businesses.
 - B. **Public Comment:** Kate Galambos and Lauren Brown informed the commission of a local effort to help eliminate the use of plastic bags by Branford businesses, noting several businesses are already participating. Q&A followed; the commission expressed general consensus in support of the effort and asking to be kept informed.
 - C. **Announcements/Adjourn:** With no meeting scheduled for August, the next EDC meeting will be Wed., September 19th. With no further business, A. Canosa moved to adjourn; seconded by J. Gordon, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
T. Elton [recording secretary]