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*Isai Espino*  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

## Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: **May 1, 2024** held at Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St - Branford

**Meeting was called to order at 8:05am** Present were Commission Members: R.Squeglia (Chair), E.Cahill, A.Canosa, S.Fainstein, J.Fennell, F.Hird, First Selectman J.Cosgrove, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, and Dale Kroop from REX, and Perry Maresca (Staff).

Approval of the April Minutes was tabled until the June Regular Meeting.

**Staff Report:** P.Maresca told the commission that State Senate Bill (SB277) regarding Shore Line East rail service will reconvene during the next session. State of CT continues to welcome public comment and held an open meeting last month. 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Local Authors Book Signing will take place on May 11<sup>th</sup>. The CT Dept of Tourism and the Town of Branford will hold a "Summer Listening Tour" and on June 13<sup>th</sup> the SBA and Branford's EDC will be hosting event featuring many lenders, advisors, and other providers for the benefit of the many small businesses in the region. In addition to the TGIF music on Fridays during May, Parks and Rec is gearing up for their Musical Mondays and Thursday Night Jazz events on the Town Green during July & Aug; and the Way back Wednesdays throughout July.

**Planning & Zoning Report:** An Active Adult Residential Community is being proposed for Beacon Hill Rd. Premier KIA applied for construction of a service building on North Main St. 544 & 588 West Main St was approved for used auto dealership. Application continues for auto repair shop at 17 North Main St. Applications for Old Regency Theater site and 4 Liesel Lane site have been temporarily withdrawn but both will be back after modifications.

**Shoreline Chamber of Commerce:** Dee Jacob noted that the Chamber's booklet will be available at the beginning of June. Their website now features an electronic marketing magazine that features a Community Calendar with town events and business events. The Artisan Marketplace at the Branford Festival on Saturday is well on the way of being sold out. Continue to advocate for small businesses on Bills that can adversely affect their operations.

**Selectman's Report:** Jamie Cosgrove advised that the Police Station renovations are going through final design and the WIS Fields are out to bid. Budget requesting a 2.58% increase has been sent to the RTM. In compliance with State requirements, a Fair Rent Commission is being formed. Funding has been acquired that guarantees another year for BACA to be housed at their current location on Main Street which is beneficial to the other businesses around the Town Center.

**Old Business:** Chairman Rich Squeglia brought the Commission up to date noting that the RTM's Rules & Ordinance Committee approved our request of \$23,550. An updated list of Business Recognition Award will be comprised. Two businesses have expressed the need for additional space within the Town. The RFP for our website and marketing needs is being published this week in the New Haven Register and electronically with deadline to submit by May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am.

**New Business:** There were no Demolition Applications or correspondence in the mail as of April 29th. Improvements on the Town Pier at Branford Point are scheduled to be completed by the end of May. The establishment of a Harbor Management Commission will be extremely beneficial for coordinated efforts of dredging prime economic drivers in our waterways around town. EDC Commissioners' Reports will be added to the agenda for future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20am after a motion by J.Fennell and seconded by A.Canosa. Next Regular Meeting to be held on **June 5th, 2024.**

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

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Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

Richard Squeglia (Chair) · Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Susan Fainstein · Jim Fennell · Frank Hird · Karen Ragonese · Jared Schulefand  
First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove [ex officio]

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