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*Isai E. Arpin*  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

## Economic Development Commission

## Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: **June 5, 2024** held at Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St - Branford

**Meeting was called to order at 8:03am** Present were Commission Members: R.Squeglia (Chair), E.Cahill, A.Canosa, S.Fainstein, J.Fennell, F.Hird, K.Ragonese, J.Schulefand, First Selectman J.Cosgrove, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, Dale Kroop from REX, and Perry Maresca (Staff).

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept April Minutes by A.Canosa, seconded by J.Fennell passed unanimously. Motion to accept May Minutes by A.Canosa and seconded by S.Fainstein passed unanimously.

**Staff Report:** P.Maresca- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Author Book Signing held May 11<sup>th</sup> exceeded all expectations. News Channel 8 reported and broadcast that evening. CT Dept of Tourism and Town of Branford hosted a regional event on May 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss/promote tourism attractions. Channel 8 reported on this event as well. Thursday morning, June 13<sup>th</sup> SBA's Small Business Resource Fair will be hosted by the EDC here in Branford.

**Planning & Zoning Report:** P.Maresca- Letter written to IWWA in support of Premier KIA's desire to construct a service building on North Main St. It will be across the street, on the old Carriage Shoppe property, opposite their existing showroom. At tomorrow night's P&Z meeting (June 6<sup>th</sup>), will be speaking in favor of the Nuzzo's Farm desire to eliminate the current restriction of allowing only 20 events per year on the property. The beautified farm draws people from all over and works with many local businesses. The Landscape Regulation Amendments continue to be discussed with the committee meeting once a month.

**Shoreline Chamber of Commerce:** Dee Jacob- Displayed the digital online three town Chamber Guide and printed booklet to arrive this week. It will be available at Town Hall, Community House, and both Public Libraries. Artisan Marketplace being held on the Saturday of the Branford Festival will have 80 spaces filled and features true crafts people. June 18<sup>th</sup> is their "SPRING INTO SUMMER BASH" at Bishop's Little Red Barn in Guilford. Women of Excellence Award nominations being accepted. New businesses to the SCC: Nest on Main St; Mountain Expedition Supply on West Main St; Grieco Ford on East Main St; Pioneer Environmental on Research Dr

**Commissioners' Comments:** REX website has beneficial info that we have permission to use. Farmers Market being held every Sunday at Bayview Park in Stony Creek has been very successful. With SaltBrick Prime and Lockworks Tavern about to open, all the buildings at Lockworks square will soon be fully occupied.

**Selectman's Report:** Jamie Cosgrove- Police Station improvement project is going through review and regulatory process and out to bid Sept/Oct. Construction expected to begin on the WIS fields project once kids get out of school for the summer. New, process using non-petroleum based fuel is being used on this project. The additional cost for this method is being absorbed by Giordano Construction. Street paving, including Indian Neck Ave that is vital to many small businesses, is nearly completed. Received a Grant for improvements to the trolley bridge on The Shoreline Greenway Trail connecting Stony Creek and Pine Orchard. Improvements on the Town Pier at Branford Point are scheduled to be completed in June. The fireworks will go on regardless of completion.

**Old Business:** Chairman Rich Sgueglia- EDC budget request of \$23,550 FY2024-2025 was approved. The main expenditure will bring website and social media into play for promoting Branford to businesses near and far. Request for a summer intern to research, pull, and organize data was put into a motion by J.Fennell and seconded by A.Canosa. Motion carried. Responses to the RFPs were opened on May 30<sup>th</sup>. Narrowed down to three low bids. At this point in the meeting (8:56am) A.Canosa was asked to excuse himself from the meeting. Chair R.Sgueglia advised the Commission that we received 23 bids ranging from under \$10,000 to over \$200,000. The scope of the work requested and needed seems to be achievable within the lower bids. Motion by S.Fainstein and seconded by E.Cahill that J.Fennell, R.Sgueglia, and P.Maresca contact and interview the team members of companies that submitted the three lowest bids and then make a decision on behalf of the Commission.

**New Business:** There were no Demolition Applications or correspondence received as of June 3rd. There is an issue with employees parking on Main St and primary spaces for their entire work shift. Not fair for all businesses trying to draw patrons in. Consider notifying businesses of parking concerns. Dale Kroop advised that he has been retained by REX to continue through the summer of 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20am after a motion by J.Fennell and seconded by S.Fainstein. Next Regular Meeting to be held on **July 3rd, 2024**.

<https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>

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Perry Maresca · Economic and Business Development Manager

Richard Sgueglia (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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