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*Wae E. Arpin*  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

## Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: **July 3, 2024** held at Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St - Branford

**Meeting was called to order at 8:06am** 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 June Minutes by A.Canosa, seconded by J.Fennell passed unanimously.

**Staff Report:** P.Maresca- \*SBA Resource Fair was very successful came for business needs, assistance, finance, guidance, direction from SBA sources. Attendees loved Branford, Community House, Town Center. \*REDFO Workforce Alliance updated livable wage in CT is \$24.13/hr – goals to improve public transportation – Programs to educate comfort in AI. \*StonyCreek Wharf Grant request in the works \*AVELO has flown 4.8 million passengers 22% passengers flying in are not from the area. Coming here on business. \*TCMA SummerSidewalkSale Aug8/9/10\*. Alpine Haus expects soft opening 8/1 with Grand Opening in Oct.. \*SaltBrickPrime & LockworksTavern opened with great press.

**Planning & Zoning Report:** P.Maresca- [IWWA] \*KIA okayed to construct service building and parking lot on North Main St.[P&Z] \*Nuzzo's Farm received unanimous decision to permit unlimited events on the property. \*Proposal for apartments and storage facility will be back before P&Z at July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Shoreline Chamber of Commerce:** Dee Jacob- The three town Chamber Guide printed booklet has been distributed at Town Halls, Community Centers and Libraries throughout Branford, Guilford, and North Branford. The Artisan Marketplace held on the Saturday of the Branford Festival was 80% craftspeople and 15 nonprofits with about 4,000 people passing through. August 15<sup>th</sup> is Women of Excellence Awards luncheon. New businesses to the SCC: Grieco Ford on East Main St; Re-Loved Designs on East Main St with Ribbon Cuttings at European Wax in Branhaven Plaza on West Main St, and Mountain Supply on West Main St. The Nest on Main Street will be next week.

**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- Noted that during a meeting with GSB Branch Manager and others on the management team of the bank, was complimented on the EDC and all the Economic Development going on in Branford. Summer Intern for EDC was approved. Opportunities for future intern possibilities was discussed for additional departments and businesses. Activities on the Green are in full swing with Musical Mondays, Way-Back Wednesdays, and Thursday Night Jazz..

**Old Business:** Chairman Rich Sgueglia- Advised the Commission that after interviewing owners and representatives from companies of the three low bids, a decision was made to hire Mosaic Marketing and work is now underway with SEO beginning with new Facebook and LinkedIn media channels and regular posts steering inquiries to our website. Frank Hird reported on the Retention subcommittee's progress and direction which includes utilizing the data collection being comprised by the intern for possible future business visits. Technical assistance with business education will be the next step in the upcoming months.

**New Business:** There were two Demolition Applications. Structure at 650 Main St and buildings at 175 Cherry Hill Rd. There was no other correspondence in the mail. There was no public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02am after a motion by F.Hird and seconded by S.Fainstein. Next Regular Meeting to be held on **September 4th, 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]

**Branford Economic Development Commission - 1019 Main Street - Branford, CT 06405 - 203-315-0637 - [www.branford-ct.gov](http://www.branford-ct.gov)**