



Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: **October 2, 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, J.Fennell, F.Hird, K.Ragonese, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, and Perry Maresca (Staff).

Approval of Minutes: Motion to accept September Minutes by A.Canosa, seconded by J.Fennell, passed unanimously.

Staff Report: P.Maresca- BioCT held annual BioScience & Beer Mixer. Sold out. Over 400 attended. Horton Group are new owners of **LockworksSquare**. Fully occupied, spruced up w/painting+landscaping. Paving in spring. **TreeLighting** Saturday, November30th. **Shop,Sip,&Stroll**=Thurs, Dec12th. **Dovetail** Custom Kitchens opened at 1036 Main St. **The Essex Brassiere** opened on North Main St to great reviews. **CoCo's** on Montowese St to close as owner is retiring. Looking for a tenant in that space. **Main Street** repaving pushed back to spring'25. **Caron's Corner** has been sold. New owners expanded hours. **ShoreLineEast** has service from New London to Stamford w/improved connections in New Haven starting October 7th. **Apartments** by Stony Creek Brewery are starting to rent for December 1 as first building is almost ready. **AtlanticWharf** apartments expect to start construction in June 25. Survey underway for residents and property owners regarding **ShortTermRentals**. The updated list of **Branford's top businesses** shows strength and stability with a great mix of manufacturing, retail, construction, healthcare and auto sales. Branford's unemployment is lower than State average, which is lower than national average.

Planning & Zoning Report: P.Maresca- Planned Development District approved for **329 East Main St** for apartments & storage at x55. Public Hearings continue for an express oil change facility being proposed at **1201 West Main St**; 3,000sq' Gas/Retail/FastFood building at **5 East Industrial Rd**; Enterprise Auto at **5 Liesl Lane**. Premiere Kia proposing an additional facility at **200 & 206 North Main**.

Commissioners' Comments: F.Hird gave an update on the commission's quest for Federal grant to assist with establishing a Biotech Incubator facility. Successful meeting with multiple parties. Major manufacturer of health equipment is expanding its US manufacturing and growing in Branford.

Shoreline Chamber of Commerce: Dee Jacob- Stepping up the **Shop Local Shop Shoreline** campaign. **Raffle** to win thousands of dollars' worth of gift cards. **Candidate Forum** scheduled for October 15th. **Health & Wellness Fair** on November 2nd. Sept brought in 10 new members. **Slackline Press** one year anniversary. Ribbon Cuttings: **StretchLab**; **Xfinity Store**; **Pino Insurance**; Net90 held at **Holiday Inn Express**. Workforce Alliance is a good resource for all types of businesses to utilize.

Selectman's Report: Jamie Cosgrove- No report

Old Business: A.Canosa – Website and social meeting experiencing substantial gains. Specific target direct mail is additional phase. Can now use the latest info to benefit Retention Committee.

New Business: Frank Hird introduced town resident, Sam Crampton, of OR&L.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:02am after a motion by A.Canosa and seconded by J.Fennell. Next Regular Meeting to be held on **November 6th, 2024**.

Perry Maresca
Economic and Business Development Manager
475-837-3622 pmaresca@branford-ct.gov