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BRANFORD *Joe E. Fennell*
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Economic Development Commission

Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: **November 6, 2024** held at Joe Trapasso Community House - 46 Church St - Branford

Meeting was called to order at 8:07am. Present were Commission Members: R.Squeglia (Chair), E.Cahill, A.Canosa, J.Fennell, F.Hird, K.Ragonese, Jared Schulefand, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, and Perry Maresca (Staff).

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

Staff Report: P.Maresca- **Scarecrows** on the Green held in October. **TreeLighting** to be Saturday, November 30th at 6:30p. **Shop,Sip,&Stroll** will be Thurs, Dec12th from noon-8p and will include a shuttle bringing people along Main St, down Montowese St, and to the Fourth Ward area. The new **Shop~Dine~Explore Banner** to be hung across Main St. **TownGreen & Main St** upgrades will start spring of 2025. Recent event in New Haven w/DECD **Commissioner Dan O'Keefe** noted CT population increase and housing needed. **EvolveImmune** a BioScience company at 23 Business Park Drive strikes a \$1.5B deal with Abbvie. **S&P** reaffirmed Branford's AAA Bond Rating funding \$18million in projects: Fueling Station; Police Station; WIS Fields. Plus \$1,063,340 toward Main St Reconstruction and Police Headquarters projects.

Planning & Zoning Report: P.Maresca- **[P&Z] Harry Smith** retiring 11/14. Gas/Store/FastFood facility approved for **5 East Industrial Rd.** Application for Motor Vehicle Service (Express Oil Change) at **1201 West Main St** was WITHDRAWN & REAPPLY 11/7. **200 North Main** Premier Kia continued to 11/7 wrote letter in support. **13 & 23 North Main** Auto Body Repair Public Hearing on 11/7. **4 Liesl Lane** Enterprise Auto Leasing APPROVED. **[ZBA]** Approved Shahani Fuels desire for company headquarters at **14 Sycamore Way** (old BH Cares).

Commissioners' Comments: F.Hird & E.Cahill continue work on leads for Federal and State grants with P. Maresca

Shoreline Chamber of Commerce: Dee Jacob- Announced the hiring of Tina Strell as Vice-President of the chamber. This year's electronic Shoreline Gift Guide is now available online. Ten new companies have joined the chamber. Held ribbon cutting for **Alpine Haus, StretchLab, SlackLine Press, Xfinity.** Diaper Banks 20th anniversary 3,300 first year, now distributing in the millions. **Health & Wellness event** held at the Y with 25 exhibitors. Business After Hours event was held at **Branford CoWorking.**

Selectman's Report: Jamie Cosgrove- No report

Old Business: A.Canosa – Social media and website continue to see increased traffic. Posts noting the CoWorking space and the padel/pickleball facility had big responses. Will continue to feature businesses in town. R.Squeglia advised the Retention subcommittee that a long-time business in town is looking to expand and we will be reaching out to them. D.Kroop advised that the updated list of businesses that the EDC has will be key for making that contact. Through Workforce Development, an event could be held to bring businesses and employee prospects together.

New Business: Motion by E.Cahill, seconded by A.Canosa to approve 2025 Meeting Calendar carried unanimously. The demolition application for 51 Lanphiers Cove Camp had no objections.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:59am after a motion by E.Cahill and seconded by J.Fennell. Next Regular Meeting to be held on **December 4th, 2024.**

Perry Maresca
Economic and Business Development Manager
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Richard Squeglia (Chair) · Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · 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** <https://www.bestcitiesforbusiness.net>