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*W. E. Quinn*  
BRANFORD TOWN CLERK

## Economic Development Commission

## Branford, Connecticut

MINUTES from: **March 5, 2025** held at the Branford Town Hall - 1019 Main St

**Meeting was called to order at 8:00am.** Present were Commission Members: R.Squeglia (Chair), A.Canosa, J.Fennell, F.Hird, J.Schulefand, First Selectman James Cosgrove, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce President Dee Jacob, Dale Kroop of REX, and Perry Maresca (Staff),

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to accept January Minutes by A.Canosa, seconded by F.Hird, passed unanimously.

**Staff Report:** P.Maresca- Town Center Reconstruction Project bids are due mid-March. Communication with businesses will continue as timeline and schedule comes into play. Shoreline Chamber Chili Challenge will be held along Main Street on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Fresh Greens and Proteins is opening in the old Tommy's Waxing building at 1100 West Main St. They also have locations in Hamden, New Britain, and Watertown.

**Planning & Zoning Report:** P.Maresca- [IWWA] Proposed age restricted housing development by Beacon Hill was approved. A three lot subdivision on Gould Lane is being proposed. [P&Z] 67-1 North Branford Rd (Rt 139) approved for a personal training facility.

**Commission Members' Reports:** F.Hird advised that Birch & Twine has leased a space in the commercial building of Metro Star Apartments at 375 East Main St.

**Shoreline Chamber of Commerce:** Annual Excellence Awards & Breakfast was held on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Keynote speaker was State of CT Comptroller, Sean Scanlon. Recipients were from all three towns with Branford's Cancion Tequila New England States receiving Small Business of the Year, and Grey Goat Farmtique on Rt 139 being named New Small Business of the Year. Branford CoWorking on Montowese St was praised as Community Partner Branford. Guilford Savings Bank's Timothy Geelan was awarded the Circle of Leadership recognition. April 5<sup>th</sup> from 11a-2p businesses along Main St in Branford will be serving chili from different establishments and organizations for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Chili Challenge Contest for best chili. Winner gets \$500 awarded to their registered charity. New Chamber members include The Coffee Bean at 845 West Main St; Lockworks Tavern at 1212 Main St; and Saltbrick Prime at 1212 Main St. March 25<sup>th</sup> will be a Business-After-Hours at CrossPoint Federal Credit Union at 249 West Main St. The Chamber is closely monitoring the current legislative session and how any changes could affect the business climate.

**Selectman's Report:** Jamie Cosgrove- After bids are received and reviewed, a contractor will be awarded the contract. Phases of construction will be determined with the contractor. An aggressive schedule will be the goal to minimize disruption to businesses, townspeople, and visitors. Locations of public parking will be promoted with master plan to be worked on. Possible grants available. Public works has already been cleaning and upgrading the current lots. All regular planned events will be worked into the schedule and/or relocated during this construction project. The Branford Festival will take place at Hammer Field. In addition, the annual Father's Day Road Race will start and finish on Meadow St alongside Hammer Field. Total revamp of the town website is underway with new IT Director spearheading the advancement. Budget hearings with Board of Finance to commence March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Guest Speaker:** Dale Kroop from REX spoke on Brownfield grants with phases including: Planning Study; Assessment; Actual Remediation. All to have an economic benefit to the town/region. Next round of funding should be in September.

**Old Business: - Subcommittee Reports: Attraction** - Social media campaign continues to draw thousands of visitors which guides them to the EDC website. **Retention:** Needs of businesses and property owners in relation to Eversource is being addressed for multiple areas in town. Controlled Air's parent company is keeping them in Branford as they expand into larger quarters. Next visit to a Branford business may be in the commercial building construction field. **Budget:** 2025-2026 FY Budget to hold steady at \$23,500 with no increase over last year's budget.

**New Business:**

Demolition Application for 23 Waverly Park Rd received no objections.  
There was no correspondence nor public comment.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25am after a motion by A.Canosa and seconded by F.Hird.  
Next Regular Meeting to be held on **April 2nd, 2025** at the lower level conference room of Town Hall.

Perry Maresca  
Economic and Business Development Manager  
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Richard Sgueglia (Chair) · Elena Cahill · Al Canosa · Jim Fennell · Frank Hird · Karen Ragonese · Jared Schulefand  
First Selectman Jamie Cosgrove (ex officio)  
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