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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Meeting
Economic Development Commission
July 11, 2016
Town Manager's Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm

Present: Jan Finch, Joan Tutor, Chris Kranick and Liz Caplan Diana Pelliccio.

Town Staff: Park and Recreation Director Lauren Munro

Guests: Town Councilor Daniel Armin, Scott Small, Intern Lucas Hannen

2. Approval of minutes – June 6, 2016 Special Meeting

Member Tutor moved to accept the minutes of June 6, 2016, seconded by Member Pelliccio. With all in favor, motion passed.

3. Town Manager's Report – No report

4. Old Business

a. Update on Shoreline Chamber

Member Kranick gave an update on the following recent activity reported by Mr. Ed Lazarus, President of the Shoreline Chamber:

-  Moving The Women in Business group to NATAZ Restaurant
-  Major article in the Sound Newspaper

- Promotional video with CGI
- A commitment to a booth at the POCO Festival along with Eblast information to the public
- July 20th Lobster Bake at the Owenego Inn
- Upcoming interview with himself and Kim Spainer on Totoket TV
- 12 new businesses joining the chamber
- Working on North Branford September program.

Member Caplan reported that she met with the Shoreline Chamber twice to go over the video and to discuss items to highlight the website. She reported they are up and working and will continue to gather information and get it out to the public.

There was discussion on the Sound article reporting on the addition of North Branford joining the Shoreline Chamber

There was discussion on the code red announcements that are now available.

1. POCO

Member Caplan overviewed information on the upcoming Business Social Event to be held at the POCO Grounds, big tent on August 4th 6:30-8:00. This will be sponsored by the EDC and POCO Festival. There is a plan for three speakers and members discussed representatives from UI, The Office of Culture and Tourism as well as REX. All Town businesses would be invited. Members decided to call the event “North Branford EDC Business After Hours”.

Park and Recreation Director Lauren Munro questioned needs for the event, there was discussion on Ms. Munro informing POCO Sponsors as well as sharing a list with the EDC for a mailing.

Chairman Finch informed members of her correspondence with Mike Crowley, stating she would stay the point person with him as well as contact REX. Members discussed the potential of the third speaker for the event. Member Caplan would contact The Office of Culture and Tourism Bureau.

Councilor Armin offered to speak on behalf of the Town.

2. Representative from North Branford

Chairman Finch reported on her conversation with Shoreline Chamber President, Ed Lazarus regarding a representative for the Shoreline Chamber from North Branford. Mr. Lazarus felt one person should be chosen as a board member, members discussed options and suggested Member Kranick.

Member Caplan moved, seconded by Member Pelliccio to appoint Member Kranick as the representative from EDC to the Shoreline Chamber Board. With all in favor, motion passed.

3. Promotional Video

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

4. Legislative Forum member from NB

Chairman Finch shared information from Shoreline Chamber President, Ed Lazarus regarding an effort for a combined committee to address legislative issues. Chairman Finch expressed an interest in fulfilling this position.

Member Pelliccio moved, seconded by Member Caplan to appoint Chairman Finch as a representative from the EDC to the Legislative Forum Committee. With all in favor, motion passed.

b. Business Visitations

Member Caplan reported she would be visiting Dalton's tomorrow in an effort to meet with the owners.

There was an overview and discussion on information given during the Business Visitations.

c. 1599 Foxon

Town Council Member Daniel Armin reported there was not any new information to share. Work began on wording for an RFP to clean up the soil contamination as well as demolish the buildings. An RFP request to look for another developer was not approved.

There was discussion on the Center School building and the historical significance.

There was discussion on monies used to have the Charrette and moving forward with a plan.

Member Kranick opened discussion on starting with soil cleanup to produce a clean slate with the property. Members discussed what role the EDC might play in addressing the Town Council for clarification as well as timing for grounds cleanup and to address an RFP for a commercial market analysis.

d. Central Plaza

Town Council Member Daniel Armin reported there was a meeting with Central Plaza owners and Town Planner Carey Duques with no positive results, the landlord suggested he is continuing to look for tenants.

Members discussed finding a solution for problems with absentee commercial landlords. A possible solution was to contact State Representative Vincent Candelora for guidance.

Members discussed the positive outcome of the new General Dollar Store expressing gratitude to Town Planner Carey Duques for all her hard work on the project.

There was discussion on obtaining approval for an Economic Development Officer and the best way to advocate for this position.

Chairman Finch gave an overview on a survey that the new intern is working on to supply to REX.

Mr. Lucas Hannen gave an overview of the work he has begun as well as goals specific to the survey.

e. Breakfast for businesses

Member Caplan continues to work on this event.

f. Totoket TV

There was information and discussion on the August Business Event interview done by POCO Festival Chair Rosanne Krajewski.

The next date for an interview is August 9th, Tuesday. Members discussed this as a possible date for the EDC interview. Member Caplan stated she would inform Frank Mentone that August 9th is a potential date.

g. Arts Alliance

Member Caplan reported she met with the Shoreline Alliance for the Arts and gave an overview on their needs and the potential for the North Branford Hall.

There was discussion on various properties throughout the Town as possible sites for the group.

h. Correspondence

Reviewed previously in the meeting.

5. New Business

a. New Intern

Lucas Hannen was introduced as an intern for REX with an overview of the work he is responsible for.

b. Discussion of Business Plan Expectations

Chairman Finch reported she would be meeting with REX on Wednesday.

c. POCO

Discussed earlier in the agenda

6. Adjournment

Member Pelliccio made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m., seconded by Member Tutor. With all in favor, motion passed.

The next meeting will be held on August 1, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Caruso
Recording Secretary