

MAYOR
MICHAEL J. DOODY

DEPUTY MAYOR
JOSEPH E. FAUGHNAN

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL T. PAULHUS



COUNCIL MEMBERS
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI
DANIEL M. ARMIN
ANTHONY S. CANDELORA
MARIE E. DIAMOND
CHRIS MANNA
GEORGE I. MILLER
ALFRED D. ROSE

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

TOWN HALL, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471
TOWN MANAGER (203) 484-6000 TOWN HALL FAX (203) 484-6025

Minutes
Economic Development Commission
December 5, 2016
Town Manager's Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Jan Finch, Elisabeth Caplan, Joan Tutor, Chris Kranick and Scott Small.

- 1. Jan Finch called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.**
- 2. Visitors/Guests: Michael Paulhus, North Branford Town Manager and Daniel Armin, North Branford Town Council Member- Liaison to EDC.**

Future Visitors/Guests discussed: IT- Dennis Pannone, North Branford Proud Business- Kevin and Denise George and State Economic Development Commission-Lindy Gold.

- 3. Approval of Minutes**
 - Meeting November 7, 2016, Member Elisabeth Caplan motion to approve, second by Member Joan Tutor to approve the minutes. Corrections: spelling error - Elizabeth should be Elisabeth Caplan, Linda should be Lindy Gold, Tutor should be Joan Tutor. Member Scott Small motion to approve corrections, second by Member Joan Tutor. Vote: With all in favor, none opposed. Motion Approved.
- 4. Town Managers Report: Michael Paulhus – Topics presented: 1599 Project / Demolition was awarded to Cherry Hill Construction. Demolition**

of 2 buildings, removal of demolished building materials, remediation of contaminates, area to be contoured and seeded. Demolition to begin mid to late January, 2017. RFP will be discussed at later date. The public needs to be offered a time to respond to the future use of 1599 property. Possible Public Hearings could be held. Note: a developer from Madison CT very interested in 1599 property. North Branford Festival Tree Lighting was a great success, facilitated by North Branford Park Req. and The Rotary. An estimated 400 people attended and enjoyed numerous activities. Dog Park project has begun. A fence was installed near the barn at the Augur House. Additional Dog Park items: message board, benches and signage are expected to be completed in the spring of 2017. Some discussion about status of the Police Department building. More to come on that topic. ESI expanding their business onto Commerce Rd. while remaining at current location on Twin Lakes Road. CERC training dates will be coming out soon.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **Proposed Economic Development Coordinator.** Letter composed and presented to the Town Council. Daniel Armin indicated it was not yet actively viewed by the council. A copy of the letter was given to all EDC members.
- b. **Review of Business Expansion and Retention Survey -Power Point.** The Power Point - survey results ready for EDC viewing. Michael will provide access directions to all EDC members for data review and evaluation of usage going forward. Next steps to be discussed at future meeting.

6. **New Business**

- a. **Report on Shoreline Chamber:** Chris. Working to expand membership of North Branford businesses. New membership is very slow. Working to review the obstacles/hurdles preventing businesses becoming members. Meeting scheduled next week (Chris, Lisabeth, Dan and Scott) expected to attend with Kathy from Chamber Membership, to discuss resolutions toward increase Chamber memberships from North Branford/Northford.
- b. **REX Report:** Jan. Meeting was very interesting. Companies basic complaint...“can’t find educated work force”. No communication from

schools to inform companies of available graduates. Companies and schools not getting together for work force conversations.

c. **Commission Reports.**

1. **Real Estate:** Joan noted that the town has been offered complementary appraisals on value of business property in North Branford. Members discussed town owned acres (1400) and potential usage. Dan stated “open space is not free space”. There are maintenance costs involved. Further discussions by members included: town vision for designated zones for business development, potential tax earnings, fiscal responsibility and being an advocate for the people. Joan reminded members, The Geenty Group Realtors could continue to be a valuable resource.
2. **Visitation Program:** Lisabeth began discussions to resume outreach local business via visits, phone calls and e-mails. Gathering contact business lists for EDC member participation/assignments. Offer a summary of available programs to businesses during calling visits – limit size of package.
3. **Website:** Scott indicated he reviewed current updates that were completed (elections results, P & Z minutes and Town Council data). Business data not yet updated, very out dated. He will continue to observe the site and report back to EDC members. Website EDC meeting time needs to be changed. Website continues to need improvements.
4. **EDC Coordinator:** Chris - Job description listed in the letter given to the Town Council. EDC Members planning to attend official Town Council meeting covering the request for this EDC position. This position is expected to pay for itself under specific activities including grant funding. Dan suggested members be fully prepared to respond to the Council in support of this requested position.
5. **Business Breakfast:** Jan – Breakfast Invite initiative – phone calling, ads in Totoket Times, The Sound, e-mail blast, date schedule January 25, 2017 @ 7:45 a.m. register, the function beginning @ 8:00 a.m. A guess at number of attendees?? Members discussed budget to cover

breakfast costs. Lindy Gold State Economic Development Commission, possible guest speaker. There is a shared outreach activity of members. Lisabeth heading up use of contact/calling lists. Need decisions meeting structure and specific topics.

7. Correspondence: none

8. Adjournment

Member Scott Small made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 P.M., second by Member Lisabeth Caplan. Vote: With all in favor, none opposed, Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Pelliccio
Recording Secretary