

MAYOR
MICHAEL J. DOODY

DEPUTY MAYOR
JOSEPH E. FAUGHNAN

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL T. PAULHUS



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DANIEL M. ARMIN
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ALFRED D. ROSE

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

TOWN HALL, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471
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Economic Development Commission
January 9, 2017
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 6:00 P.M.**
2. **Visitors/Guests: Michael Paulhus, North Branford Town Manager and Daniel Armin, North Branford Town Council Member- Liaison to EDC, Denise and Kevin George of both North Branford Proud and North Branford Proud – Business and Carmen Ciardiello, Ronald Delfini and Brooke Delfini of Engineering Specialists Inc. (ESI).**

Future Visitors/Guests discussed: IT- Dennis Pannone.

3. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. Meeting December 5, 2016, Member Elisabeth Caplan motion to approve, second by Member Joan Tutor to approve the minutes. Corrections: spelling error - Elizabeth should be Elisabeth Caplan. Member Elisabeth Caplan motion to approve corrections, second by Member Joan Tutor. Vote: With all in favor, none opposed. Motion Approved.
4. **Town Managers Report:** Michael Paulhus – Attended CERC training meeting in Shelton. Notes taken will be scanned and sent to all EDC members. They will be discussed at the next EDC meeting. CERC may be

an option for the EDC Coordinator position. 1599 property – buildings demolition update: front building ok to begin demo now, rear building still within the 90 day historic preservation process as discussed. ESI expanding their business onto Commerce Rd. while remaining at current location on Twin Lakes Road. Michael will write up 2017 Calendar for the Town Council. He will also share the ESI business success/additional business location and the great feedback with the Town Council. ESI is very happy doing their business in North Branford and working with the Town. There was also some discussion on the future budget/gaps and State of CT cuts in funding.

5. **Old Business**

- a. **Proposed Economic Development Coordinator.** Brief discussion of possible out-sourcing this position to CERC vs in-house staffing. More to come on this topic and budget.
- b. **Business Expansion and Retention Survey.** Modify the size of the printed report.
- c. **Business Breakfast and Retention Survey** – There will be some survey Q & A discussions at the Breakfast. More information on #7d.
- d. **Update on 1599 Foxon Road - see item # 4 Town Managers Report.**

6. **New Business**

- a. **Shoreline Chamber:** Chris. Continued work to expand membership of North Branford businesses. New membership is very slow. It was brought to members attention, Town of North Branford has not yet paid membership dues. Jan will contact the Town Manager Michael Paulhus to discuss this situation.
- b. **REX Report:** none
- c. **Update on Business Opportunities: Guest Speakers from ESI,** Carmen Ciardiello, Ronald Delfini and Brooke Delfini shared their business growth and location expansion. Their product productions have tripled in size while maintaining staffing due to automation. They are in the process of establishing an additional business location in town and will be looking to add staff. They have installed solar panels and have broke even in 4 years. The intent is to also install them on the new

additional site. ESI supplies products to the automotive industry, medical field, Stanley hand tool components, brackets etc. The decision to expand and remain in North Branford was based on the great experience working with the town. Jan extended an invitation to the guests to attend the Business Breakfast.

Guest Speakers from North Branford Proud – Business and North Branford Proud – Denise George and Kevin George. They offer free community events listings in North Branford Proud. North Branford Proud-Business offer free business ads. They are listed on Facebook. They currently have approximately 1200 members. North Branford Proud began as a Community Page. Later North Branford Proud – Business was additionally developed for ads. Elisabeth will send information re: Business Breakfast for entry. Jan extended an invitation to Denise and Kevin to attend the Business Breakfast as well.

7. **Commission Retention**
a. **Visitation Program - Elisabeth**

b. **Website – Scott: none**

c. **EDC Coordinator – Chris**

d. **Business Breakfast – Jan**

Invitations mailed, waiting RSVP's. 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 and what town/political members may be invited. Lindy Gold State EDC possible guest speaker. There is a shared outreach activity by members. Jan will be responsible for the food/refreshments. Further discussion surrounded the Breakfast “format” – decisions, meeting structure and specific topics. Contact Handouts will be given to all attendees.

7. **Correspondence: none**

8. **Adjournment**

Member Joan Tutor made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 P.M., second by Member Elisabeth Caplan. Vote: With all in favor, none opposed, Motion Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Pelliccio
Recording Secretary