

MAYOR
MICHAEL J. DOODY

DEPUTY MAYOR
ROSE MARIE ANGELONI

TOWN MANAGER
MICHAEL T. PAULHUS



COUNCIL MEMBERS
ANTHONY S. CANDELORA
MARIE E. DIAMOND
JOSEPH E. FAUGHNAN
GEORGE I. MILLER
ALFRED D. ROSE
ROBERT VIGLIONE
THOMAS ZAMPANO

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

TOWN HALL, 909 FOXON ROAD, NORTH BRANFORD, CONNECTICUT 06471
TOWN MANAGER (203) 484-6000 TOWN HALL FAX (203) 484-6025
Economic Development Commission
December 4, 2017
Town Manager's Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Members present were Jan Finch, Chris Kranick, Liz Caplan Joan Tutor and Scott Small.

2. Approval of Minutes

a. November 6, 2017

MOTION: Member Small moved to accept the minutes of November 6, 2017, seconded by Member Caplan, with all in favor and one abstention from Joan Tutor, motion passed.

3 Guest- Sammy, Rustic Doors and Décor

Sammy D. gave an overview of her business and her personal experience in Northford. She informed members she began a new venture called CT Small Business Party and gave a background. This upcoming spring, they will hold an event in New Haven with other events planned for the future. The next event will be February 1, with the location to be determined.

Members discussed future plans for EDC events, potential locations, ways to attract more businesses, and how to get people to meet and network once at an event.

4 Liaison from Town Council

Will be announced in January.

5 Report from Town Planner Carey Duques

a. Review text amendment e-mailed to EDC members regarding residences over businesses. Will be discussed at P and Z hearing on Thursday Dec 7.

Chairman Finch reported that Town Planner Carey Duques informed her Planning and Zoning Commission will be discussing the amendment at the next meeting. Members all agreed with the lot size discussed.

6 Town Manager Michael Paulhus Report

Town Manager Michael Paulhus was not present.

7. Old Business

a. 1599 Foxon Road update

Members discussed letters submitted to Town Manager regarding resident's positions on the sale or open space use of 1599, all agreed that they request a synopsis from Mr. Paulhus regarding the outcome of letter writing.

Members discussed what the next steps would be for the property. A discussion ensued regarding the current amount of town owned property, the ability of development and what direction the Town is moving in regard to EDC.

b. First Impressions Program

Member Small gave an overview of the visit from the sister town of Coventry in the exchange program, it was as a positive visit with great feedback. Members discussed the visit to Coventry and compared the town characteristics to North Branford. There will be a synopsis sent for an overview.

c. Greater New Haven Visitor and Relocation Guide

Chairman Finch updated members on the expense of advertising in the guide as well as the potential of sending in photographs of the Town for potential publication.

d. January Breakfast-Workforce Alliance Speaker

Chairman Finch opened discussion confirming the date of January 23, 2018 for the January Breakfast. Member Caplan will assist with the planning. Members discussed potential speakers who might address workforce issues for businesses.

Member Caplan suggested posts on North Branford Proud, North Branford Pride and other social media outlets, as well as coordinating mailings and food. There was discussion on having a question period again at the end of the breakfast as well as a look back at what has been done throughout the year.

e. Signage

Chairman Finch informed members that currently Town Planner Carey Duques this is at a standstill. Members discussed different signage opportunities.

f. REX Utilization

Members discussed the need to obtain all resources possible considering they operate under an all-volunteer commission. There was discussion on potential opportunities for help through REX. Members suggested they should get a list of commercial property as well as obtain any marketing help from REX.

Member Caplan suggested REX setup a networking opportunity with the EDC and area commercial realtors.

Member Kranick suggested another overview on what services REX offers and what the Town can gain from the membership.

Member Tutor and Chairman Finch offered to connect with REX and obtain a list of their services.

There was a discussion on creating a map with available properties for sale along with different zoning. Member Tutor will begin working on a map.

Member Kranick suggested they contact the marketing person from Rustic Doors and Décor to see if she would consider some marketing for EDC such as Facebook.

g. Web Site

Was not discussed.

8. New Business

a. David Ambrose –List businesses by service provided

Chairman Finch stated the list is almost complete, she will follow up with him this week. It was suggested businesses be put up on a webpage, members discussed legality.

b. Little Red School House move to Atwater Campus- Scott suggestions

Members discussed the current location and the proposed location of the school house. Member Small will contact the historical society to discuss the best location.

h. Utilization of Survey Summary

Chairman Finch overviewed some of the presentation done of the summary from last year's breakfast. Members discussed additional work they might do.

i. Honeywell – Mike

Mr. Paulhus was not present.

9. Committee Reports

a. Chamber/Real Estate – Joan

Member Tutor reported that the Chamber has hired a new president Cherry Cody, who comes from Eastern CT Chamber. Member Tutor gave a brief background of Ms. Cody.

Member Tutor informed members she attended a Directors meeting in September where they discussed a joint effort to attract more North Branford businesses into the Shoreline Chamber. Members suggested they invite the Shoreline Chamber to speak briefly at the Breakfast.

Member Caplan suggested Joan encourage the Chamber to do more business breakfast or after-hours events in North Branford.

c. Visitation Program – Liz

Member Caplan suggested they compile a list of new businesses: Suggested were Capone's Pizza Bar, Anna's Deli, Mellilo's Greenhouse and General Store, Featherly Ever After, Texaco North, and the Antique Car business.

Chairman Finch offered to write an article and submit it to the Totoket Times on behalf of the EDC.

c. Website – Scott

Members discussed some work being done by Town Planner Carey Duques.

10. Correspondence

None.

11. Adjourn

MOTION: Member Caplan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m., seconded by Member Small. With all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Caruso
Substitute Recording Secretary