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TOWN MANAGER
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ROBERT VIGLIONE
THOMAS ZAMPANO

TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Meeting Agenda
Economic Development Commission
February 5, 2018
Town Manager's Conference Room
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman Finch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

a. January 17, 2017

MOTION: Member Caplan moved to accept the minutes of Special Meeting, January 17, 2018, seconded by Member Kranick. With all in favor, motion passed.

3. Town Council Liaison to EDC

There is currently no liaison appointed from Town Council. Member Caplan reported she did reach out to Councilor Zampano. He is taking it under consideration and will get back to the Commission.

Members discussed commitment to additional committees and the great questions Mr. Zampano asked when EDC members spoke to the Town Council.

Town Manager Michael Paulhus offered to reach out to Mr. Zampano.

Another suggestion was Councilor Marie Diamond.

4. Guest- Barbara Malmberg, REX and Carrie Duques, Town Planner

Chairman Finch introduced Ms. Malmberg. Ms. Malmberg overviewed their five-year update of the SEDS, which is a regional plan, which enables them to receive USED A grants. Ms. Malmberg overviewed members of the committee and subcommittees and work that has been done to eventually move to implementation teams who will present to the REX Board of Directors then finally on to the COG for any adjustments and then the USED A. Ms. Malmberg also overviewed future employment throughout the region and ways to prepare the workforce for employment needs, transportation needs and goals for the region, competition with the southern

states, business friendliness throughout the region and setting up career paths for students. Ms. Malmberg overviewed next steps and opened up time for questions.

Ms. Malmberg suggested paths for North Branford to help promote economic development. In response from a question on supplying REX with an active real estate list, Ms. Malmberg said they would certainly work with the Town on the list. There was also discussion on a potential “pick list” for the Town, meaning what would the Town like to see. There was additional discussion on best ways to market North Branford.

5. Town Manager Michael Paulhus Report

Members discussed the zone change request by Dollar General Store. Town Manager Michael Paulhus overviewed the plan with members.

Town Manager Michael Paulhus stated he will report at the Town Council meeting that the EDC is requesting their preference of having a part time EDC person based on numbers for a consultant as well as maintaining continuity of the job.

There was brief discussion on the grant writing consultant and applying for grants.

6. Old Business

a. Business Breakfast Report, email to participants

Chairman Finch reported there were approximately 25 businesses in attendance. Members felt the information presented was valuable. Chairman Finch reported on the email sent out to the participants and directed the information to members.

b. 1599 Foxon Road

Town Manager Michael Paulhus reported there was nothing new, members briefly discussed potential use.

c. Economic Development Coordinator

Discussed under Town Managers report.

d. First Impressions

- Report for Town

Chairman Finch questioned members as to the best time to report to the Town on the First Impressions program. Members discussed potential ways to present to the town and suggested submitting to the Totoket times as well as placing it on the website. Member Caplan will post it on North Branford Proud. There were suggestions to work with the Town Planner and include the Coventry representative. Members felt presenting to the public on a week day evening would be beneficial.

- Join with SCC

Chairman Finch opened discussion on working with the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce for the First Impression presentation. Members decided after notifying the public they will consider this option.

d. Map creation of available properties for REX

Members discussed the Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and suggested the EDC overview it and comment and assist the Town Planner. Member Caplan and Member Tutor offered to work on a map. Member Small made suggestions on best ways to create a visual in an 8.5 by 11 format. Members also discussed focusing on key properties for sale. Some members will meet with the Town Planner. Member Krancik will send current MLS listings to the Town Planner.

7. New Business

a. 2018 Goals

Chairman Finch suggested members discuss goals in March.

b. Web site/North Branford Business listings

Will be discussed during the March meeting.

c. Meet at 5 pm

Chairman Finch asked members about having the time of meetings. Members felt the current time of 6:00 pm is best.

d. SCC invitation for Sheri Cote to attend March meeting

Chairman Finch suggested inviting Sheri Cote to the March meeting. Member Tutor will invite her.

8. Committee Reports

a. Chamber/Real Estate – Joan

Member Tutor, reported that Sheri Cote is still orienting herself to the Shoreline Chamber.

Member Kranick stated there are 62 homes for sale in Town, which is about average.

b. Visitation Program – Liz

Member Caplan will visit the new Texaco Gas Station as well as Anna's Deli and report back in March. She will also be starting work on the joint Business under the Tent event.

c. Website – Scott

Member Small suggested his area of expertise was not in websites, however he is happy to stay updated on it. Members discussed any changes and potential work being done.

Members suggested ideas for the EDC website.

d. Chris

Members discussed the suggestion of having a local job fair and the current Town website. It was suggested another meeting be set up with Mr. Pannone and possibly Town Planner Carey Duques.

9. Correspondence

Chairman Finch directed members to information done by REX and the Commission.

10. Adjourn

MOTION: Member Tutor moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m., seconded by Member Caplan. With all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Caruso