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TOWN OF NORTH BRANFORD

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Economic Development Commission
March 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 6:12 p.m.

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

2. Approval of Minutes

a. February 5, 2017

MOTION: Member Small moved to accept the minutes of the February 5, 2018 meeting with the following corrections; the spelling of Town Planner Carey Duques and the acronym CEDAS, seconded by Member Caplan. With all in favor, motion passed.

3. Town Council Liaison to EDC

There is presently no Town council Liaison appointed to the EDC

4. Guests- Sherrie Cote, Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and Bill Savastano, HazWaste

Ms. Cote was unable to attend this month's meeting, members will reach out again with another invitation.

Mr. Bill Savastano and Ms. Donna Pursley of the HazWaste Committee presented on their Town-Wide awareness for Earth Day which will be held on April 21st. Mr. Savastano overviewed their efforts to invite local business that have earth friendly products and resources.

Members engaged in discussion and made suggestions of potential businesses. An invitation to be part of the event was made to the EDC and was accepted by members.

5. Town Manager Michael Paulhus Report

Town Manager Michael Paulhus was not in attendance.

6. Old Business

a. Comments on Business Breakfast

Chairman Finch reported that she received three responses on the Business Breakfast, all comments were positive about the event.

b. 1599 Foxon Road

Member Caplan stated 1599 Foxon Road property was discussed at the recent Town Council Meeting with mixed feelings among council members.

She also informed members that Bob Wiedenmann expressed interest in coming to an EDC meeting to discuss 1599 Foxon Road. It was suggested she reach out to Mr. Wiedemann and invite him to the next meeting.

c. Economic Development Coordinator

Chairman Finch reported that the Mr. Paulhus stated that advertising for the EDC position was submitted to The Sound, Totoket Times, CEDAS, REX and CCM.

Members suggested adding SCORE, the Shoreline Chamber of Commerce and The Workforce Alliance. Members also asked Chairman Finch to request a copy of the advertisement for their review.

d. First Impressions

Chairman Finch opened discussion on the article she had written on the First Impressions Program inviting the public to overview the results of the program. The date is March 14th, to be held in the Town Managers Conference Room from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Members discussed the information that was collected and being available for the meeting.

e. New Business List

Chairman Finch distributed the new business list sent by Town Planner Carey Duques.

Members discussed the businesses and also discussed upcoming ribbon cutting ceremonies as well as publishing the list of the businesses in the Totoket Times.

f. Planning/Zoning comments and map creation

Member Small updated members that he along with Member Kranick met with Town Planner Carey Duques to discuss the map creation. He gave an overview of the Orange map they viewed as an example. He also stated that Member Kranick supplied them with a current MLS list of active listings in Town.

Chairman Finch distributed information from Town Planner Carey Duques on an application for Foxon Road. Member Small stated he had already seen and commented to the Town Planner on the application.

g. Website

There was no discussion.

7. New Business

a. Report on K-9 facility and 666 Totoket Road

Chairman Finch informed members that a new dog facility was approved in North Branford. Members also discussed an application form Carriage Stone Farm to Planning and Zoning.

b. Goals for 2018

Members discussed recent accomplishments and will continue discussion at next month's meeting.

b. EDC e-mail

Chairman Finch informed members that she had a discussion with Finance Director Anthony Esposito requesting an independent email for EDC.

Members discussed the potential commitment of an independent email and reasoning for awaiting an EDC coordinator to oversee the independent email address.

d. Job Fair

There has not been much interest at this time, they will discuss again in the future.

8. Committee Reports Discussion

a. Chamber

Member Tutor reported That Sheri Cote continues to evaluate what works for the Shoreline Chamber.

Members discussed the value of joining the Chamber and encouraging North Branford businesses to join the Shoreline Chamber.

b. Visitation Program

Member Caplan reported she visited Guilford Texaco North. She overviewed her visit with the business. She welcomed them and gave them direction for a ribbon cutting ceremony. She additionally stopped into Anthony John's to give them information on EDC and the Town. She specifically spoke about North Branford Business Proud, all members decided this was an important tool to inform businesses of. She will visit Pasquale's next.

c. Real Estate

Member Tutor stated it has been a slow start in Real Estate so far.

Member Caplan talked about Guilford's EDC coordinator and what he does to update on real estate. She suggested this would be a good item for the new EDC coordinator.

d. Website

Discussed above.

9. Correspondence

Chairman Finch shared information from Town Planner Carey Duques on Little League Opening Day.

Chairman Finch stated Anthony Johns Restaurant and Anna's Deli have requested a ribbon cutting.

Chairman Finch shared the email from Town Planner Carey Duques on upcoming lunches.

Members briefly discussed information on this year's business Taste North Branford to be held at the Potato Festival. Member Caplan overviewed some potential new ideas for the event by Festival coordinator Jenn McCulloch.

Member Caplan will poll area restaurants to get a commitment level and report back to the Commission.

10. Adjourn

MOTION: Member Caplan moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Member Tutor. With all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Caruso