

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 12th 2014 7:15pm
Trumbull Town Hall
Rescheduled from Cancelled February 5th Meeting

Commission members present: Beryl Kaufman, Bernard Klem, Robert McGowan, Ralph Sather, John Pisinski, Thomas Ginis
Staff: Economic and Community Development Director Edward Lavernoich

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:25 PM. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8th meeting. It was noted that the minutes incorrectly said 2013, and that they should be amended to 2014. Mr. Klem made a motion to approve the minutes with the amended date. Mr. McGowan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Lavernoich reported on current business development activity within the town as of the end of January. He noted progress in the status of several projects. Mr. Lavernoich mentioned that there is still an ongoing parking issue in the new retail development at 41-51 Monroe Turnpike, which the Town is working to address with the landlord. State-owned properties close to the development have been discussed with CONNDOT as possible sources of additional parking. Bridgeport Hospital Cancer Outpatient Center project on Park Avenue is underway, and construction has commenced on the project's garage. The garage's construction is expected to be completed in mid-late 2014, while the new office building's construction would commence in late 2014. Construction on the 140 Monroe Turnpike office building is nearing completion and the ribbon cutting is anticipated to be in the early spring of this year. Mr. Lavernoich also briefed the commission on a new project to be finished in spring 2014- Trumbull Self Storage located on the corner of Spring Hill Road and Cutler's Farm Road. Updates were provided on several other properties/projects. He also reported that Robert D. Scinto Inc. had purchased 35 Nutmeg Drive, but had not disclosed any specific plans related to its future use or development.

Mr. Lavernoich reported that the Planning & Zoning Commission was scheduled to consider an extension of the medical marijuana moratorium at the commission's February 19th meeting.

Mr. Klem and Mr. Sather noted that the DOT Maintenance Yard on Monroe Turnpike was not visually appealing. There was a discussion regarding the future of the yard. Mr. Lavernoich was asked to inquire to DOT regarding improved management of the yard; primarily, making sure that debris, brush and other waste from highway maintenance operations that would be stored at the site would be kept away from the road.

Mr. Sather inquired about the progress with the State DOT related to traffic calming on White Plains Road. Mr. Lavernoich promised to inquire and report back to the commission at the March meeting.

Mr. McGowan inquired about the Monroe Walmart project. Mr. Lavernoich described the interactions that the Town has had in recent weeks with CT DOT and the Office of State Traffic Administration.

Mr. Lavernoich briefed the commission on the status of the Solarize program. He noted that deadline for contracts under the Solarize Easton-Redding-Trumbull program was February 9th. A spreadsheet comparing the performance of the 6 programs across the State in the current round of the Solarize Connecticut program was provided to the commissioners. It was noted that the E-R-T partnership had resulted in more inquiries and contracts signed to-date than any of the other local programs during the current round. 43 contracts had been signed in Trumbull during the program period, with a few more expected in the mail. Mr. Lavernoich noted that although the formal program was ending, Sunlight Solar was maintaining its pricing for one more month, and a reduced rebate was still available from the Clean Energy Finance & Investment Authority.

Mr. Lavernoich reported on the Database Marketing Project. The work with intern David Giron continues. The utilization of the database to give advance notice to potential attendees of the business appreciation breakfast was discussed.

Mr. Sather confirmed that commissioners had received the lists of possible/suggested 2014 Goals for the Commission. He requested that commissioners give some thought to possible goals for the sake of a discussion at the March meeting.

The 2014 Business Appreciation Breakfast was discussed. Mr. Lavernoich stated that Commissioner Zamary had reserved the Marriott for May 7th. Chairman Sather emphasized his belief that the consistent goal of the Commission should be to attract local business decision-makers to the event and provide them with useful information. Potential speakers and programs were discussed. Mr. Lavernoich suggested that a presentation on the updated Plan of Conservation and Development might be desirable. There was a general agreement that the POCD would be a suitable focus of the meeting, with the Chairman of the P&Z, the Town Planner, or the consultant making the presentation. Mr. Lavernoich noted that the POCD was scheduled for final adoption in March. It was decided that the Commission would monitor the POCD adoption process, and make a final determination regarding the breakfast program in March.

Mr. Lavernoich shared the most recent edition of the Business New Haven Book of Facts with the commission. He asked the commissioners to look at the advertisement for the Town that was placed in January. There was a general agreement that the advertisement was worthwhile, but that the print and layout should be modified if a similar advertisement was to be placed in the future.

There was a general discussion regarding making Town residents more informed about

development and business activity in Town. The desirability, frequency, placement and potential content of a newsletter were discussed. Ms. Kaufman agreed to work on a concept for the newsletter with Mr. Klem and Mr. Pisinski. Electronic communications and links with existing social media sites will be included in this review and plan.

Chairman Sather asked whether there was any other business to conduct. There were no other topics of discussion offered. He asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Pisinski made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Klem. The motion carried by unanimous vote. Chairman Sather adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:15 PM.