

**Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 4, 2016
Trumbull Town Hall**

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Present: Commissioners Jackie Galiani, Evelyn Zamar, Michael Iaccarino, Christopher Loram, Tom Ginis

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. and made a motion to approve the September 6th meeting minutes. Ms. Galiani accepted the motion, seconded by Ms. Zamar and unanimously approved by the Commission.

Director's Report

Boards and Commissions Economic Development Event 11/17

Ms. Bakalar encouraged everyone to attend the Boards and Commissions Economic Development municipal training course on 11/17 sponsored by CERC (Connecticut Economic Resource Center). A letter will be sent from Ms. Bakalar, Chairman Sather and First Selectman Herbst extending invitations to the various Boards and Commissions. She also asked if anyone had a venue suggestion, to please advise.

Electronic Newsletter

We are continuing to improve the newsletter format and the option of subscribing on line will be available. The December edition will feature Hawley Lane Mall and an update of the trail system.

Affordable Housing

Ms. Bakalar informed that there is an uptick in potential applications for affordable housing. While housing options that are affordable is a good thing, the density of some of these projects is concerning.

Currently, Gunther Village has an internal lot that is being considered for affordable housing. A neighborhood petition was submitted to Wetlands and a public hearing will be scheduled. The applicant will now present their application to Wetlands in November.

Ms. Bakalar also advised that the CT Conference & Municipalities forms a legislative agenda every year and she is on the Land Use Policy Committee. She requested that they consider a legislative move to amend the 8-30G Statute. Ms. Bakalar offered a policy to be considered that would allow density to be an appeal issue and also requested that workforce and senior housing

units be considered toward affordable housing. She is hoping CCM continues to move forward with this policy in the upcoming session. Currently 10% of the housing stock must be affordable to not be subject to the 8-30G Statute. Since Trumbull is 98% developed, it is impossible to reach that goal under the current formula. The session will run from January-June and she advised that she will update the Commission on its progress.

Whitney Ave and Main St. – Another traffic study is underway.

Trumbull Center - Ms. Bakalar noted she has been in contact with two potential restaurateurs who are interested in Trumbull Center and have been referred to Peter DiNardo.

965 Church Hill Road - Redevelopment was approved in August but Ms. Bakalar was not sure of the timeline due to contingencies that need to be met.

Commissioner Iaccarino questioned the status of the Visitors Center and Ms. Bakalar advised that the grant will not be funded until 2017 due to the Kennedy Center grant approval.

Trail Connection – This is a 2.4 Million Dollar Project from Tait Road to the Veterans Memorial Park. The Town has 1.2M – the balance may be funded by the State.

Two options are being considered along White Plains Road.

Ms. Bakalar advised that the connection from the Veterans Memorial Park down Rocky Hill into Bridgeport, including the tunnels and bridges, is out to bid and will be started and funded by the State. She also informed she is are looking for additional trail support/trailheads and will be applying for a DEEP (Department of Energy & Environmental Protection) grant which is due on December 15th.

Ms. Bakalar noted that there is an Open Space Application she is considering which will give you 65% of fair market value to acquire open space for use for trails and other needs.

D. M. Read's Warehouse - There is a significant amount of interest in this property.

Trumbull Chamber of Commerce – Ms. Bakalar informed that Laura Campbell from the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce has hired a company that optimizes social media to promote businesses. The digital optimization project will be underway for three months. Analytics will be available to gauge results.

Discussion of October Business Appreciation Breakfast

To date, we have 92 attendees and responses are still coming in. Commissioner Iaccarino will contact a photographer to cover the event.

AWARD SELECTIONS

Small Business Success Award Nominations - Awarded annually by the First Selectman and the Economic Development Commission to a business owner, developer, commercial realtor, landlord or an organization that supports small business as an example of Trumbull's vibrant small business climate.

Nominations: Flourishes (Betsy Ehram), Shearwater Coffee Roasters (Ed Freedman), PuRest Flootation (Chris Fischman)

The Commission elected **Flourishes** (Betsy Ehram) to receive the *Small Business Success Award*.

Corporate Success Award Nominations - Awarded annually by the First Selectman and the Economic Development Commission to a corporation, developer, commercial realtor, landlord or an organization that supports Trumbull's corporate presence and success.

Nominations: Frontier (Kira Howell), People's Bank (Armando Goncalves), Cooper Surgical, R. D. Scinto Inc. (Bob Scinto).

The Commission elected **R. D. Scinto Inc.** to receive the *Corporate Success Award*.

Adjournment

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather requested a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m., accepted by Ms. Galiani, seconded by Mr. Loram and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 1st.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
Clerk