

**Town of Trumbull**  
**Economic and Community Development Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**October 1, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.**  
**Trumbull Town Hall**

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Commissioners: Beryl Kaufman, Evelyn Zamary, Eve McGrath, Shelby LeVino,  
Jeanne Gibbs, Marshall Marcus

Not Present: Commissioners Eric Michel and Mark Smith

First Selectman: Vicki Tesoro

Public: Nina Boynton (107 Whitney Avenue, Trumbull)

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the September 3, 2019 meeting minutes. Commissioner Marcus made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Kaufman and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Selection of Small Business & Corporate Success Awards**

The following businesses were nominated for the Small Business Success Award: Mike & Mark Cerreta (Cerreta Builders), Pure Poetry, Plasko's Farm and Trumbull Pharmacy.

The following businesses were nominated for the Corporate Success Award: Henkel and The Marriott.

Mr. Marcus made a motion that Mike & Mark Cerreta (Cerreta Builders) be nominated for the Small Business Award, seconded by Ms. Zamary. Vote: 4 in favor - balance voted for Pure Poetry.

Mr. LeVino made a motion to nominate The Marriott for the Corporate Success Award which was seconded by Mr. Marshall.

Ms. McGrath made a motion to nominate Henkel for the Corporate Success Award, which was seconded by Mr. Marshall. Vote: Unanimous

**Awards**

Small Business Success Award – Mike & Mark Cerreta (Cerreta Builders)  
Corporate Success Award – Henkel

Chairman Sather suggested we have three categories next year and the Commission agreed. Mr. Marcus moved that in 2020 the Business Award categories have the Small Business Award split into ancillary services to small businesses that includes development, real estate and such and independent/entrepreneur/small business operators. Ms. Zamary seconded the motion.

Mr. Marcus withdrew the motion made pending future discussion. Ms. Bakalar will submit a draft of the three new categories and circulate it at the next meeting for discussion.

Ms. McGrath congratulated Plasko's Farm and informed that the September issue of House Beautiful featured Plasko's Farm as the #1 pumpkin patch in Connecticut.

## **Director's Report**

### **Business Update & Community Development Update**

On Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, Henkel will be doing a dedication of the new area at the Nature Center (\$10,000 Henkel donation). Ms. Bakalar will confirm the date and time. This Thursday, Henkel will be conducting a cleanup as part of their sustainability program.

River Valley Ground Breaking Luncheon – was held at Bianco Rosso and was well attended. Ms. Bakalar complimented the excellent presentation and noted the food was outstanding. Great River Valley is very interested in linking with small businesses in the community and with people looking for employment. They are speaking with local banks, a hair salon and home care agencies so if you know of anyone who is interested, Ms. Bakalar said she can refer them to Judy Loder who is their representative. There is also an opportunity for a local pharmacy.

123 Monroe Turnpike (10,000 sq. ft.) – They had a well-attended ribbon cutting ceremony. The owner is seeking tenants. It is a beautiful building and he has located his practice there and has one additional tenant signed.

Escapology Ribbon Cutting (Trefoil Drive) – the ribbon cutting will be held in mid-November or early December. Ms. McGrath suggested considering an evening ribbon cutting.

ECDC Newsletter – went out in early September and received a lot of positive feedback. Our Fall Newsletter will be published the end of October.

Town Website – features **Stay Connected** where you can sign up for newsletters from the town and receive the ECDC Newsletter. Ms. Bakalar stated we are in the process of creating a new website which will be introduced mid-October. The Commission recommended exploring if we can have a direct sign up for our newsletter on the new site.

### **Planning Update**

We are finalizing the industrial zone by Planet Fitness.

The Corporate Park – Business and property owners within the Corporate Park have organized a Business Association as a result of our planning effort. A meeting on October 11<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to talk about public improvements for the gateway, cell phone service and other issues.

The Trumbull Center Boulevard Study – going out to bid for consulting services this month. Our intern Dominique Nunnally, a Wesleyan graduate, has been working with Ms. Bakalar. The scope of work for the consultant who will oversee the study will be reviewed with Engineering, DOT and our internal staff.

The Trail (Trumbull Center) –the bids came back and the Engineering Department is getting ready to award the bid. The project will go under construction in the Spring 2020.

Christian Heritage Commuter Lot – we are waiting to hear if we have been selected. We made the first threshold and ranked 3 out of the 11 projects. Devin Clark from MetroCog collaborated with Ms. Bakalar.

### **Grant Update**

Ms. Bakalar referenced Ms. Tesoro's press release and advised we were awarded a third grant from the Small Cities Program for Stern Village. The grant (\$1,072,000) will cover renovations of Stern Village's congregate building. Improvements include new heaters, air circulation systems and energy efficiency measures. Our application was fully awarded and we have won 3 grants to date.

The Neighborhood Assistance Act Program - this program is open to non-profit organizations once a year. You can apply through the town and will be awarded tax credits. Recently Make A Wish received \$150,000, public radio \$5,000 and the Kennedy Center \$75,000. Ms. Bakalar requested that if you know of a nonprofit in Trumbull who may be interested, please have them contact her for next year.

### **Event Update**

Restaurant Week – Ms. Bakalar thanked Ms. McGrath, the interns, Ms. Gibbs, our videographer and Commission members who were extremely active in making it a success. She also credited Kathy Champion for her contributions and advised she will be emailing the towns of Stratford, Fairfield and Monroe thanking them for their suggestions and best practices.

A closeout meeting will be held this Thursday. A survey has been drafted and will be done in person with participating restaurants. Ms. Bakalar noted the restaurants did well from feedback so far resulting in a tremendous amount of business and new customers. Chairman Sather commented it was fun, supports our local businesses, builds community pride and people like something different. Ms. Bakalar added that social analytics indicated that Jonathan Trumbull was the most viewed.

Ms. Tesoro thanked the Restaurant Week Committee, the ECDC Commission and Confirmed it was a fabulous week in the town, everyone had a great time and she appreciated all the hard work that went into it. Ms. Tesoro also thanked the residents and the out of towners who supported it.

Ms. McGrath thanked Ms. Bakalar, Ms. Andreyka and Mr. Chin for their efforts as well as Ms. Gibbs who noted the videos were very successful due to the expertise of Brian Dunn.

Ms. Bakalar stated we may be awarding certificates to our interns at the Business Appreciation Breakfast for their assistance which could generate a human interest story as well as a stories from our restaurants owner/operators and customers.

Business Appreciation Breakfast (October 25<sup>th</sup>) - Ms. Bakalar is excited that our featured guest speakers are DECD Commissioner David Lehman and Peter Denious, the new President & CEO of the CT Economic Resource Center. They will talk about the partnership they have for economic development state wide and the new direction the state

is going in regarding economic development growth and policy. Chairman Sather, Ms. Bakalar and Kathy McGannon (Chief of Staff) had the pleasure of meeting Commissioner Lehman in September noting he understands the underpinnings of economic development very well.

### **Sustainable Committee Group – Mr. LeVino**

Mr. LeVino stated they would like to be a part of the First Selectman's weekly meeting with department heads and will ask for assistance. Ms. Tesoro suggested meeting next Tuesday. Mr. LeVino is seeking to recruit anyone who has interest or expertise.

Ms. Bakalar stated that BRBC is doing an article on sustainability projects for its upcoming REGION Magazine. She and Ms. Tesoro interviewed 3 weeks ago with BRBC and talked about various municipal and private projects as well as policy changes that Ms. Tesoro has put forward addressing sustainability issues. Ms. Bakalar will submit copies of a final article to the Committee.

Kiosk - Old Mine Park – we will be getting a new three sided fabricated kiosk which the Conservation Committee and Don Watson worked on with Dmitri Paris and Ms. Bakalar. The old wooden sign will be replaced and was grant funded. The dedication will be the end of October if weather permits.

### **Opportunity for Community Input**

Nina Boynton (107 Whitney Avenue, Trumbull) inquired as to when will the lights will go into a working mode on the trail and was advised by Ms. Bakalar to contact Engineering.

Ms. Boynton also suggested a concept that would be perfect for a brewery or Trumbull Center. A site could incorporate 5 restaurants as well as an outdoor courtyard, gas fire pit, pool tables, outdoor ping pong tables and lounging areas. Offices and apartments would be built upstairs. Ms. Boynton is planning a presentation to the Commission.

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather requested a motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m., accepted by Commissioner Marcus seconded by Commissioner Kaufman and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on November 12, 2019 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka  
ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz