

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 6, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Videoconference

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held via Zoom Videoconference on January 6, 2026.

Attendance

Members Present: Beryl Kaufman, Chairman
Justin Scheuble, Vice Chairman
Evelyn Zamar, Secretary
Leyla Fayyaz
Fred Petrossi
Patricia Borghesan

Members Absent: Marshal Marcus

Also Present: Rina Bakalar, Director of Economic & Community Development
Dan Onofrio, President / CEO Bridgeport Regional Business Council
Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman
Gia Mentillo, Clerk
Trumbull IT Staff
Trumbull Community Television

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Election of Officers

Motion made (Zamar), seconded (Scheuble), to elect Commissioner Kaufman as Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion made (Zamar), seconded (Petrossi), to elect Commissioner Scheuble as Vice Chairman. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion made (Scheuble), seconded (Fayyaz), to elect Commissioner Zamar as Secretary. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of December 2, 2025, Minutes

Motion made (Scheuble), seconded (Petrossi), to approve the December 2, 2025, minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kaufman introduced the newest ECDC member, Patricia Borghesan, who provided a brief background on herself and shared her excitement for supporting Trumbull through the Commission. She noted that the First Selectman's office is working to fill ECDC vacancies.

Director's Report

Business Update:

Director Bakalar stated there have been three significant real estate closings in Trumbull over the past month. (1) Henkel Corporation is expanding to 9 Trefoil Drive (their third location in Trumbull) and are working to fit out the building. (2) Kubtec has purchased 75 Merritt Blvd. and will be relocating their business from Stratford. They are planning to renovate the building in two phases. The Director provided an overview of the tax abatement agreement between the Town and Kubtec. She stated both these projects to be beneficial in terms of grand list growth (personal property) and job creation. (3) A storage facility developer has purchased 6 Cambridge Drive and will be moving forward with a modified version of previously approved site plans for a storage facility. They are waiting for an under the wire permit from Eversource to begin environmental remediation of the site which will be followed by building demolition and construction. Director Bakalar informed that abutting property owners are looking forward to the improvement of this area, and the facility will be a good asset for the community which is under market in storage facilities.

Director Bakalar provided an update on the Trumbull Center area. At 900 White Plains Road, there was a well attended ribbon cutting for newly opened Qwik Pack & Ship, the owner of Trumbull Café & Grill will be taking over the former Fatty Patty's space (opening a second restaurant that will not impact their existing business), there is a business seriously considering taking over the former Emma's space, and both Ichiro Hibachi and Bruegger's Bagels will be closing this year. Across the street, Wonder will be moving into both units between CVS and Starbucks which will make this plaza fully occupied. Wonder is a take-out focused restaurant that offers a diverse menu from various partner vendors.

Vice Chairman Scheuble informed that Kubtec was before the Town Council on May 5, 2025, noting Commissioners may want to watch the meeting recording to hear the company's story and long term vision for the business.

Director Bakalar informed that the Trumbull Mall has hired a full-time marketing director, Paul Sabina. The Commission discussed ways they could bring more of a community feel/use to the mall by connecting with outside organizations for collaborative events. Commissioners Borghesan, Petrossi, Fayyaz, and Zmary voiced interest in creating a subcommittee to take up this effort.

Community Development Update:

The Director suggested commissioners may want to tune into the January 21st Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting as two important community development matters will be heard: (2) 2105-2125 Reservoir Avenue site plan application for a 48 unit apartment building and (2) 2135, 2145, & 2155 Reservoir Avenue 8-30g site plan application for two apartment buildings totally 150 units.

Director Bakalar informed that the proposed project on Plum Tree Lane will need to finalize their application with the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission before going to the PZC, and the project previously denied at the corner of Unity and Booth Hill Road could come back with a revised proposal this year.

Event Update:

The Director shared that all Main Street Dollars certificates were distributed quickly to residents who picked them up on a first come first serve basis, noting that certificates can be used at participating businesses through January 31st. The department will be hosting the Fairfield County Commercial Broker Network in the spring. Director Bakalar would like to engage Jason Broadwater as a speaker for a future event. She informed that 2026 will be a busy year in terms of economic and community development as many pending projects are expected to move forward.

Secretary Zmary shared positive feedback from the community regarding Bead Jewelries in the Trumbull Mall, and Commissioner Borghesan noted a recent news article covering the business.

Per Chairman Kaufman's inquiry, Director Bakalar shared that staff writer Andreas Yilma will be covering Trumbull for Hearst Media.

BRBC Update

Dan Onofrio, BRBC President and CEO, shared that the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce is looking for board members from the business community and asked that the Commission share the opportunity with their networks. The BRBC is hosting a legislative breakfast forum on January 27th at Housatonic Community College to discuss the new CT housing bill and how it impacts the greater Bridgeport area. Mr. Onofrio extended an open invitation to the Commission for all Trumbull Chamber of Commerce meetings which are typically the fourth Thursday of each month, noting that subscribing to the BRBC newsletter is an effective way of staying informed about their work.

Opportunity for Community Input

There were no members of the public present during the meeting.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:24p.m. by Vice Chairman Scheuble and seconded by Commissioner Fayyaz. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gia Mentillo, ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi