

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Notes
January 8, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

Being there was no quorum, the notes are for discussion purposes only.

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman: Ralph Sather & Commissioners: Shelby LeVino, Eve McGrath

Not Present: Commissioners Beryl Kaufman, Evelyn Zamaray, Michael Iaccarino,
Eric Michel, Mark Smith

Also Present: First Selectman - Vicki Tesoro

Public: Paul Griffith

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. and since there was no quorum, the December 11, 2018 minutes will be presented at the February 5th meeting for approval.

Director's Report

Role of Ambassadorship

Ms. Bakalar distributed a copy of the Charter language and a bulleted list of ways Commission members can support the business community. She emphasized the business location and supporting our existing businesses is the primary role of the Commission. She welcomed further suggestions for the list which will be an ongoing project. Chairman Sather discussed the Community Development function of the committee and felt the Charter language does not adequately discuss that role. Ms. Bakalar will add a standing item to the agenda for community development discussion.

ECDC Newsletter - We have a new format which will go out soon. The branding resembles our marketing piece "Why Trumbull?" and our lists are now in Constant Contact. "Why Trumbull?" was created by our Commission, Peralta Design and Kathy Champion, our volunteer Communications Director and was distributed at our brokers tour, ICSC and our Annual Breakfast. The January newsletter is the first version featuring new branding and it is accessible on our ECDC webpage

"Housing at a Shopping mall? It's becoming more common in Mass." (by Tim Logan/ The Boston Globe) Ms. Bakalar distributed the article and stated it focuses on adding a housing component to shopping malls in Mass. There are 7 communities involved (urban and suburban) and noted that it is an important perspective of what is happening around the country. She encouraged the Commission to share the article.

Suggestions – Commissioner McGrath suggested a Small Business Saturday. She also proposed we promote local shopping during back to school tax week and that we partner

with the Trumbull PTA Council. She was happy to hear a restaurant week is being considered. Ms. Bakalar thought we can work with the Trumbull Chamber and BRBC on these ideas since we don't have any funding. She stated we will use our face book page, press releases and free media to promote any efforts.

Economic Community Development Summary – (handout) Ms. Bakalar stated this is a summary of the work we have been involved with in 2018.

Planning Update

A December meeting was held at Cooperative Educational Services in our industrial zone by Planet Fitness. Ms. Bakalar advised there was a great turnout of property owners, business owners, residents and Commissioners thanks to the efforts of Rob Librandi (Town Planner) and Gary Sorge (Stantec).

The draft plan will be presented to P&Z in February for further input.

Grant Update

We are following up with DOT on the LOTCIP request for the light at Chips and the redirection of the trail. It has been at the DOT since Thanksgiving and Senator Moore, our First Selectman and our delegation expressed their support.

A grant for FEMA dollars was submitted this week for a culvert project as a result of a massive flooding in Trumbull Center (September 25) that affected the Daniels Farm Road area.

Community Meeting – There will be a community meeting at the Board of Ed. Administration building date TBD (Ms. Bakalar will advise of date), to update the community, businesses and residents on where we are on the Long Hill Green improvements. The improvements include four different sub-projects that are in the design stage with Stantec, our consultant. Follow-up will include a written update and press release. It will also be featured on the website. We have \$1M in grant money and the town is making some commitment for design money and other improvements. All of the improvements are recommendations in the Long Hill Green Plan.

New Businesses

Juliart - Art school (100 Corporate Drive) opened

Escapology – going thru their permits and construction

Virtual Business (Hawley Lane) – in the interior space and we are working with them on their permitting

Trumbull Tradesman Center – in construction mode

Moratorium Language – (handout) Ms. Bakalar explained this is a temporary policy change that will not interrupt existing approvals or anything that is going currently thru the land use boards. It is a policy decision to put a pause on new applications so the Commission can further evaluate impact, etc.

The First Selectman made this recommendation and research was conducted by Mr. Librandi and our legal counsel. On January 16th, the Planning and Zoning Commission will hear the application. Ms. Bakalar encouraged the Commission to attend and to submit specific questions prior to the meeting to Rob Librandi or Attorney Jim Cordone.

First Selectman – Commended Ms. Bakalar’s accomplishments in 2018 and encouraged the Commission to reach out to Rob Librandi (Land Use Planner) with any questions regarding the moratorium.

Anonymous Campaign Mail – Anonymous phone calls and negative mail was sent to residents in opposition to the senior living project on 48 Monroe Turnpike. Ms. Bakalar advised that the Trumbull Chamber sent a letter to the Editor (Trumbull Times) stating that this type of tactic is not good for our business environment and they are in support of the project. Ms. Bakalar stated these type of tactics hurt the business community, the tax payers and our business reputation. The project was for a zone change and text amendment (4 in favor-1 opposed).

Branding of Reservoir Area – We may want to get a broader community input possibly thru a survey. Commissioner LeVino suggested schools can also become involved.

Commissioner Vacancies – Ms. Bakalar stated if anyone has a resume for an interested party to please submit them to her attention or directly to the First Selectman’s office.

Opportunity for Community Input

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather closed the meeting at 8:15 p.m. The next meeting will be held on February 5, 2019 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz