

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 3, 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 February 3, 2026.

Attendance

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

Members Absent: Patricia Borghesan
Marshall Marcus

Also Present: Rina Bakalar, Director of Economic & Community Development
Vicki A. Tesoro, First Selectman
Rob Librandi, Town Planner
Dan Onofrio, CEO/President of BRBC
Gia Mentillo, Clerk

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of January 6, 2026, Minutes

A motion to approve the January 6, 2026, meeting minutes was made by Vice Chairman Scheuble and seconded by Secretary Zamary. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

There was no report from the Chairman.

Director's Report

Event Update:

Director Bakalar stated several ribbon cuttings and grand opening ceremonies will be happening in the coming months for Pediatric Healthcare Associates at 6600 Main St. (in early March), In Bloom Autism at 101 Merritt Blvd., Dube Dance Collective at 55 Merritt Blvd., and Trumbull Fitness at 35 Nutmeg Dr. (under new management).

The Director informed the New England BMX Nationals event will be coming back to Trumbull this summer, noting this to be positive for economic development as it brings people to the area who patron local businesses. She'd like to work with the BRBC to find ways to further promote town assets and businesses during this time. There will be a full briefing on business updates at the March meeting.

Business Update:

Director Bakalar introduced Town Planner Rob Librandi to provide further updates. She thanked her staff and the Commission for supporting the ECD office in her recent absence.

Mr. Librandi informed owners of 6 Cambridge Drive are working to finalize their approvals for a demolition permit so they can move forward with the approved self-storage facility. He shared several updates on Trumbull Center: the new owners of the former Fatty Patty's space are working through the permitting process to renovate the space for a new food based business, there is a new business working to finalize a lease agreement for the former Emma's space, Qwik Pack & Ship has been doing very well, Ichiro recently closed, Bruegger's Bagels will be leaving after June, and Wonder, a food hall concept coming to the CVS plaza, is working through the building permit process to fit out their space.

Mr. Librandi stated Marianna's Pantry will be leaving their current location this month and a new business will be back filling that space. Vice Chairman Scheuble spoke with the business owners who are fervently committed to staying in Trumbull and remain dedicated to the community.

Mr. Librandi informed Massage Envy will be leaving Trumbull in the coming months and there are plans to reinvent that space. Also, the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) approved a new barber school at 35 Nutmeg Dr.

Community Development Update:

Mr. Librandi shared the senior housing development approved for 12 Cambridge Dr. is expected to move forward this spring, and the PZC recently approved a 48-unit workforce housing development at 2105-2125 Reservoir Ave. where 15% of the units will be deemed affordable.

Per Vice Chairman Scheuble's inquiry, Mr. Librandi clarified that at this time housing is no longer being proposed at the Avery Abrasive's property (2225 Reservoir Ave.), adding that other users have been inquiring about this site. Director Bakalar stated the property to be a key location, noting the Town would like to preserve commercial and industrial real estate for future use as appropriate.

Director Bakalar informed an 8-30g affordable housing application has been submitted for 2135, 2145, 2155 Reservoir Ave. While the proposal is still being reviewed by the PZC and town staff, the project could present an opportunity for the Town to earn significant points toward an 8-30g housing moratorium which would make the Town less susceptible to these types of applications in the future. Mr. Librandi noted that the PZC is engaging a third part environmental review for this proposal at the applicant's expense to ensure the site is safe for a residential user, and WPCA confirmed that the sewer hookups are adequate for this proposal.

Mr. Librandi stated the owners of 211 Teller Road are proposing a text amendment which would allow for an age restricted housing project on their property. There is also a proposal for a text amendment that would allow a housing development on the corner of Booth Hill and Unity Rd. Mr. Librandi informed, if the text amendment is approved, the applicant will need approvals from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and WPCA before they can move forward with a site plan application.

He informed the PZC is looking to extend Trumbull's housing moratorium on proposals for more than 50-units unless the units are deemed age restricted. The gas station at the corner of Lake Ave. and Main St. has received building permits to move forward with construction of the gas station and convenience store.

Grants:

Director Bakalar informed the Town has been approved for funding through the federal appropriations process for phase two work on the Beardsley Pump Station, noting that this request was made through Congressman Himes's office and thanked him for supporting this request as well as Bill Maurer and George Estrada of Trumbull for their help with the application. She stated this project to be important to

both Trumbull and Bridgeport as a broken force main would impact both communities. First Selectman Tesoro informed that funding in that amount of \$1,092,000 was approved. The Director reminded that the Town has received funding for the Veterans and First Responder Center and other projects through this funding source in the past as well.

Director Bakalar shared her office will be hosting the Fairfield County Commercial Broker Network in April. Ms. Mentillo noted the GBT Connect Pilot Program is slated to end this June. The Director informed GBT may be seeking funding to expand the program.

BRBC Update

Commissioner Petrossi shared the recent Trumbull Chamber meeting was well attended and members are looking forward to hearing about the Main Street Dollars Program. Director Bakalar stated she's received positive feedback thus far about this year's program, adding that there will be a post-program analysis to assess economic impact and she aims to expand the program in the future. She thanked the Mustard Seed Foundation and Rotary Club for sponsoring this effort.

Dan Onofrio informed that the Trumbull Chamber will be presenting a new slate of board officers at their February meeting. He stated the BRBC hosted a legislative breakfast last week to discuss Housing Bill 8002, noting a key takeaway to be that the state is looking to assess the impact of these changes this year and anticipates amendments to the bill next year. Mr. Onofrio stated BRBC is partnering with CBIA in championing small business competitiveness and shared an informational flyer (attached). He shared that applications are currently open for the National Civics Bee and provided an overview of the opportunity (flyer attached).

First Selectman Tesoro shared that she is working to finalize Trumbull's annual budget which is due the first Monday of March and extended her support to the Commission and ECD Department.

Opportunity for Community Input

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:20p.m. by Vice Chairman Scheuble and seconded by Commissioner Petrossi. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gia Mentillo, ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi

Championing Small Business Competitiveness



Affordability

- ▶ **Restore the pass-through entity tax credit** to provide direct relief to over 100,000 small businesses.
- ▶ **Expand eligibility for R&D and apprenticeship tax credits** to include small businesses, supporting innovation and workforce development.
- ▶ **Eliminate the sales tax on energy and gas bills** to reduce operational costs.
- ▶ **Broaden access to high-quality, affordable healthcare** by allowing the creation of association health plans.

Efficiency

- ▶ **Establish a dedicated small business concierge at DECD** to guide small businesses and startups through grants, licensing, and regulatory processes, improving access to state resources.
- ▶ **Implement advanced digital permitting platforms and third-party certification programs** to streamline approvals and reduce compliance costs for small businesses.
- ▶ **Launch a state-funded AI adoption grant program** to help small businesses improve efficiency and competitiveness, modeled after the Manufacturing Innovation Fund.
- ▶ **Mandate regular agency reviews of existing regulations** to identify and eliminate obsolete, inconsistent, or ineffective rules, ensuring a more business-friendly regulatory environment.

Workforce Readiness

- ▶ **Incentivize comprehensive schools to offer career and technical education courses** in high-demand trades, enhance grants for equipment and facility upgrades, and allow tradespeople to partner with teachers for hands-on instruction.
- ▶ **Remove barriers to occupational licensing** by capping license costs and streamlining certification requirements.



6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH GRADERS:

How can you make a difference in your community?

Start with an essay to enter the 2026 National Civics Bee® nationalcivicsbee.org

How it Works

If selected, you will be invited to participate in a live competition near you. Finalists at regional competitions advance to state competitions, and finalists at state competitions advance to the National Championship in Washington, D.C.!

Prizes include cash awards, trophies, recognition, and a \$100,000 contribution to a 529 plan for the National Champion.

In 2026, if you win your state competition, your school could receive a \$5,000 donation.

Students who participate in the National Civics Bee strengthen their civics, writing, and public speaking skills, and form friendships with other young leaders along the way.



Emily Brubaker
2024 National
Civics Bee Champion



Write an essay proposing your ideas for improving your community.

- Use the [2026 Essay Application Guide](#) to find this year's official prompt, judging rubric, writing tips, and submission instructions.
- Read the [Contest Rules](#). Public, private, charter, and homeschool students in grades 6–8 who reside in participating states are eligible.



Submit your essay by February 17, 2026.

- You'll need permission from a parent or guardian to apply.
- Create an account for the online application portal: <https://my.reviewr.com/NationalCivicsBee/site/NationalCivicsBee2026>
- Submit your essay application by 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 (Hawaii Standard Time).



What if you're chosen to advance?

You'll be invited to compete at the nearest live bee. The winners of each round advance to the next, and the winner from each state competition receives a paid trip to Washington, D.C., to compete in the National Championship in Fall 2026.



To help prepare, finalists receive a special study guide and complimentary access to Khanmigo®, Khan Academy's AI-powered online tutor.

PRIZES*

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

1st Place	\$100,000*
	529 plan contribution
2nd Place	\$25,000*
3rd Place	\$15,000*

STATE FINALS

1st Place	\$1,000*
	Plus a potential \$5,000** donation to your school!
2nd Place	\$500*
3rd Place	\$250*

REGIONAL BEES

1st Place	\$500*
2nd Place	\$250*
3rd Place	\$125*

Essay Prompt

Students must submit a **4-paragraph essay** in response to the following prompt:

PARAGRAPH

IDENTIFY a specific opportunity, problem, or challenge in your community. What is something in your school, neighborhood, or town that could be improved? This could be anything, from making your school more welcoming, improving local parks, supporting small businesses, or helping neighbors in need.

100-150 words

1

PARAGRAPH

DESCRIBE the steps you would take to make this change. What will you do to make a positive impact, and why does it matter? Think about realistic actions—something you or a small group could actually do.

150-200 words

2

PARAGRAPH

FIND support to help you bring your idea to life. Who could help you, and how would they contribute? Think about student groups, teachers, local businesses, community organizations, city leaders, or others.

100-150 words

3

PARAGRAPH

CONNECT your idea to the values that shaped our country. How does your idea reflect the Founding Principles and Civic Virtues of our country? Use examples from the Founding Principles and Civic Virtues to show how your idea reflects the responsibilities of citizenship.

150-250 words

4

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Institute for Education Policy



Download the
2026 Essay Application Guide
for full instructions

This flyer is informational only, intended to provide general information about the 2026 National Civics Bee® competitions. All aspects of the National Civics Bee are governed by applicable contest rules (“Rules”), which may vary based on the location of local, statewide, and state competitions. In the event of any conflict between this flyer and the Rules, the applicable Rules shall govern. Information in this flyer is subject to change without notice.