

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

A regularly scheduled meeting of Economic & Community Development of the Town of Trumbull was held in the Long Hill Room at the Trumbull Town Hall on Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Members Present: Ralph Sather – Chairman, Beryl Kaufman – Vice Chairman, Evelyn Zamary – Secretary, Jeanne Gibbs, Shelby LeVino, Eve McGrath, and Marshall Marcus

Members Absent: Eric Michel

Also Present: Rina Bakalar – Director, Economic & Community Development
Vicki Tesoro – First Selectman

Public: Nina Boynton (107 Whitney Avenue, Trumbull)

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the January 7, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Kaufman made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Marcus and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Directors Report

Business Update & Community Development Update

Ms. Bakalar updated the Commission on Amazon's purchase of 7120 Main Street (former Read's Warehouse -114,000 sq. ft.). Ms. Bakalar noted she is meeting with their HR department next week to discuss staffing. She explained the First Selectman and town staff are working with all partners to address the uptick in traffic in the area when the site is active. She noted the site has been vacant for approximately a decade.

Ms. Bakalar also updated the Commission on the location of Image First Healthcare Laundry to our Trumbull Corporate Park. They will occupy 68,000 sq. ft. at 50 Commerce Drive. Ms. Bakalar noted that she and First Selectman Tesoro are working with the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority (GBTA), MetroCOG, and our State Legislative Delegation to establish bus service in our Trumbull Corporate Park and enhance service along Route 25 in order to service these two corporations' workforce needs. Ms. Bakalar suggested the Commission might want to consider a letter of support in the future as GTBA advocates for service expansion funding.

Community Development Update - Ms. Bakalar noted Ten Trumbull will begin to receive CO's for some buildings in February. As leasing data becomes available, it will be analyzed.

Grant Update - Ms. Bakalar discussed two applications that will be submitted in the coming months. A 319 grant is due on February 27th to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The proposal will be to continue the permeable pavement on Broadway in Long Hill Green. The Town will also submit on behalf of Stern Village, a 2020 Small Cities application. The proposed project will replace antiquated fire alarm systems in the village style units.

Event Update - Ms. Bakalar discussed the Fairfield County Brokers Network Luncheon scheduled for March 27. She encouraged the Commissioners to attend and will send a follow up invite with details.

Ms. Bakalar discussed the April 29 event for home-based businesses, cottage industries and self-employed individual. It will be held at Escapology and business owner Howard Greenspan has agreed to speak at the opening of the program. Commissioners are encouraged to attend and requested a follow up be sent with details.

Ms. Bakalar noted she would be speaking to the Trumbull Center William Raveis staff in the morning. Realtors are partners in our work and ambassadors for the town. She also mentioned that First Selectman Tesoro spoke at a business luncheon in the Trumbull Corporate Park on Friday. She noted the positive feedback attendees shared about doing business in Trumbull.

Planning Update - Commissioners requested a copy of the final plan for the IL2 zone be sent electronically as soon as it is ready for distribution. Ms. Bakalar discussed the upcoming planning effort for the Trumbull Center area.

Annual Awards - Commissioner LeVino offered a suggestion for a third award category that could be used as an option each year but not necessarily given. The community or business leadership type award would allow the flexibility to honor something or someone special as it comes up. Ms. Bakalar and Mr. LeVino will work up a revised award document for the March meeting. Commissioner McGrath noted the timeline should be moved back from the October meeting in order to allow Commissioners time to digest and/or visit if appropriate, the nominees. Commissioner Marcus agreed more time is needed but his concern was allowing enough notice for awardees to be able to attend. Ms. Bakalar will work on a timeline. A special meeting may be scheduled in September for the purpose of reviewing and selecting awardees.

Sustainable Committee - Commissioner LeVino discussed the on-going effort to prepare an application for submission. He noted one minor setback related to points associated with the age of our wetlands plan.

Opportunity for Community Input

Resident Nina Boynton (107 Whitney Avenue) was in attendance. She was happy to hear about Amazon coming to Trumbull and suggested connecting students at the High School with jobs as appropriate. She spoke in support of the addition of a sidewalk project for Whitney Avenue to the 5-year capital plan. She noted the need for bus shelters.

First Selectman Tesoro thanked Commissioners for their on-going efforts and noted that we are out meeting with businesses throughout town on a regular basis.

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather requested a motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m., accepted by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner McGrath and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on March 3, 2020 in the Long Hill Room at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rina Bakalar
ECDC Director

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz