

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 3, 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, March 3, 2020.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Members Present: Ralph Sather – Chairman, Jeanne Gibbs, Shelby LeVino, Eve McGrath, and Marshall Marcus

Members Absent: Beryl Kaufman – Vice Chairman, Evelyn Zmary – Secretary and Eric Michel

Also Present: Rina Bakalar – Director, Economic & Community Development

Public: Will Guttman (19 Pachaug Road)
Nina Boynton (107 Whitney Avenue)

Chairman Sather introduced Will Guttman, a journalism student at HCC to Ms. Bakalar, Ms. Andreyka and the Commission. He advised the Commission is composed entirely of volunteers.

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and requested a motion to approve the February 4, 2020 meeting minutes. Commissioner Marcus moved that the minutes be accepted as submitted, seconded by Ms. McGrath. Commissioner LeVino noted a correction needed to be made on page 2. Commissioner Marcus made a motion the minutes be accepted as corrected, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Directors Report

Business Update & Community Development Update

Amazon Project – Ms. Bakalar met with their H.R. team and we are going to help them with their information sessions and hiring events. Patrick Madden from the Trumbull Mall has agreed to allow us to use space. Information sessions will begin April/May but hiring will not start until June. This is an \$11M renovation of the property and they hope to open in July 2020.

Candidates for employment must be 18 with a high school diploma or GED.

ImageFirst Healthcare Laundry – Anticipates opening in August. Ms. Bakalar advised she met with the Greater Bridgeport Transit Authority and she spoke with Doug Holcomb who has been in contact with the State DOT about expansion and restoration of services.

Ms. Bakalar suggested the Commission consider submitting a letter of support for transit expansions that will serve Amazon and Image First Healthcare Laundry.

Springtide (126 Monroe Turnpike) - Springtide will be occupying an area near the former Make-A-Wish space on Monroe Turnpike. They will take 4,500 sq. ft. Ms. Bakalar will be meeting with them tomorrow and working on promotional efforts. They will be featured in our upcoming newsletter. Springtide provides services for the population who has autism and similar diagnosis.

Tobukan Martial Arts (100 Corporate Drive) – Opening/ Open House on April 25th - Formerly located in Trumbull Center, they have expanded and moved to 100 Corporate Drive. There will be an open house, ribbon cutting and a demonstration of martial arts. Ms. Bakalar is working on a press release and will be emailing the Commission.

CVS (Trumbull Center) – opening May/June

Old Mine Kiosk – dedications may be planned for the first week in April for the kiosk and the patio at the Long Hill Green. They would be held within an hour of each other. Ms. McGrath suggested the restaurants on Long Hill Green may be interested in hosting a sampling of their cuisine and Ms. Bakalar informed she will check if anyone is interested.

Grant Update

Thursday of last week, Ms. Bakalar filed a 319 grant request for \$221,000 to the State of CT, DEEP. The grant would enable the completion of the other section of parking at LHG and also the completion of a piece of Broadway that is 20' shy of the corner. We should know approximately end of June.

The Learning Experience (2285 Reservoir Avenue) – Ms. Bakalar will be working on a date for the ribbon cutting.

Fairfield County Brokers Network – On March 27th, we are hosting a luncheon that will be held at Ten Trumbull in the new clubhouse, courtesy of Howard Rappaport. It will be held from noon – 1:30 and is a free event to the broker community. Please advise Ms. Bakalar if you are attending. The speakers Rob Librandi, Gary Sorge (our consultant) and Ms. Bakalar will focus on the high points of the master plan, which is in final draft form. Ms. Bakalar will circulate the Master Plan after P&Z meets on the April 18th to the Commission. Weather permitting, there will also be a walking tour. 70+ attendees are expected.

Home Based Business Event - We will be sponsoring a home based business event on April 29th at Escapology and owner Howard Greenspan will be the speaker. Mr. Greenspan, who started his business out of his home, owns Escapology, SCS Direct and a toy store in Fairfield.

The temporary leasing folks from the mall will be attending to talk about pop up opportunities and the Trumbull Day Committee will also attend. There will be a networking event, workshops and a financing panel. There will be free lunch and a free escape room experience. Coupons will be available.

Ms. Bakalar informed we are compiling a list of home based businesses from over the past 3 years and will be mailing them an invitation. As soon as the flyer is completed in mid-

March, it will be forwarded to the Commission and emailed to Mr. LeVino for sustainability. There are 50 spots available (RSVP). The event will begin at 9:00 a.m., registration is 8:30 a.m.

Restaurant Week – Ms. Bakalar will meet with the Committee in April and has already approached our sponsors.

April ECDC Meeting – We are inviting developers Leonard Glickman & his associate (Rose Equities & Garden Homes) to do a preliminary presentation to the Commission. They are doing a community outreach and will be coming in with a site plan within a couple of months.

Regulation Revision - Rob Librandi (Land Use Planner) put together a rough time line and staff is working on the draft. March is slated for the staff to finish its review. In April/May there will be a consultant meeting with additional stakeholders and professionals to loop back on some of the changes. In June/July the consultant will be meeting with Commissions other than P&Z and will concentrate on the highlights. August – October, there will be Planning & Zoning Commission review and approval.

Mini-Master Plan IL-2 Zone - Is in final draft and will be presented. ECDC Commission will receive a copy.

Corporate Park Plan – They have reported back to businesses and stakeholders in the corporate park. The draft will be done by mid-March and we are working on an emergency exit project. Dana Barnes, owner of 101 Merritt Blvd., purchased property that allows for access to Huntington Road in emergency situations. We will be speaking with him about an easement thru this property for an emergency only gated exit. This is a viable option and we have the funding.

Corona Virus - Ms. Bakalar referenced the letter in the Commission packets that went out to our businesses and was posted on our website. It addressed virus preparation and will be featured in our Newsletter. Lucy Bango, Health Director, has been keeping our website up to date and offering links and preparation information on the web. The First Selectman has convened with a group of key departments within town government and they are tuning into all the CDC and State calls.

Press Release from the Governor's Office (handout) – Ms. Bakalar stated it is a recap of how they are changing what is available in terms of State Economic Development. The State Economic Development Agency will be at our home based business presentation and will be represented on one of our panels.

Per Mr. Marcus, St. V's Multiple Specialty Group (C-100) on 115 Technology Drive is not in operation.

Census - Mr. Marcus encouraged everyone to fill out the census since the numbers that are counted effect monies allotted by the State for programs in our town and for development. Ms. Bakalar suggested if Mr. Marcus gets information to circulate, to copy Ms. Champion and herself.

7-Eleven Ribbon Cutting – Ms. Gibbs attended and said it was a great event. Ms. Bakalar advised this is a new model store that is located on the second floor near J.C. Penney

Ardene – A new store, occupying the Charlotte Russe space, is hiring staff now.

Appreciation Breakfast Awards– Mr. LeVino and Ms. Bakalar will meet and reformat the awards. They will be discussed at the April meeting.

Sustainable Committee

Mr. LeVino advised they have an April deadline and are preparing the application. He noted the Committee was scheduled to present to the Town Council in March but due to time constraints, were unable to do so.

Opportunity for Community Input

There being no further business or community input, Chairman Sather requested a motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m., accepted by Commissioner Marcus, seconded by Commissioner Gibbs and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on April 7, 2020 in the Nichols Room at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz