

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes (Amended)
April 2, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Commissioners: Beryl Kaufman, Shelby LeVino, Eve McGrath, Jeanne Gibbs,
Marshall Marcus

Not Present: Chairman Ralph Sather, Commissioners Evelyn Zmary, Eric Michel,
and Mark Smith

Also Present: First Selectman Tesoro

Vice Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Kaufman requested a motion to approve the March 5th meeting minutes. Commissioner Marcus made the motion, seconded by Commissioner LeVino and they were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Business Update

Ms. Bakalar thanked everyone who attended the number of events since our last meeting.

Trumbull Tradesmens Center (55 Merritt Blvd.) - (Trumbull Corporate Park) secured their first lease and another is pending. The owner intends to relocate his Norwalk business to the Trumbull location.

D-Bat Trumbull (30 Nutmeg Dr.) – had their ribbon cutting with a great deal of social media coverage. Commissioners McGrath, Marcus, Gibbs and LeVino and town council members attended. There was also a pre-briefing article in the CT Post. Ms. Bakalar advised she is connecting them with all other businesses in the corporate park.

The Barbershoppe (10 Broadway) – A ribbon cutting is planned for Sunday, April 14th at 3:00 p.m. The Trumbull Chamber will attend.

Seaquest (Trumbull Mall) – The grand opening is planned for mid-June. Ms. Bakalar advised she met with the national owner and a general manager has been hired. She advised Seaquest is not only committed to excellent animal care but also involved in animal adoption programs, blood drives, environmental education, aquaponics, autism and the Red Cross. In addition, Seaquest offers package deals and every foster child in the state gets free membership. Priority schools are also entitled to free field trips at certain times of the year.

Grand Opening - New Business Check List - Commissioner Marcus suggested we develop a grand opening check list for new business owners. Ms. Bakalar requested he submit a draft which she will review and circulate at the next meeting.

Commissioner Gibbs suggested the Commission provide signs and Mr. Marcus offered his personal easel signs to use to bring attention to ribbon cuttings.

Community Development Update

Marissa's - submitted their application and it will be on the April P&Z agenda.

State of the Town Address – Ms. Bakalar advised if Commissioners haven't heard the First Selectman's speech, to read it on line and pay particular attention to the Economic Development section. It refers to new development and what was in our annual report.

Trumbull Mall – We are having monthly marketing meetings and seeing more promotional activity. We will also be meeting with the leasing staff on a regular basis – the next meeting is planned for 4/12.

Charlotte Russe – is closing and there will be a new tenant.

Express–will reopen on April 12th when their remodel is complete

Things Remembered - will remain open

Poke n' Ramen 360 – opened

Stewarts All American – closed and there will be a new tenant

Lord & Taylor – all CT stores will remain open

7-Eleven - is opening on the main floor near J.C. Penney. It will compliment recreational businesses such as Seaquest which expects to generate 350,000-500,000 visitors per year.

Ms. Bakalar stated there are no plans for any department store closings in Trumbull in 2019.

100 Oakview Dr. - is under construction. The first building is nearing completion and will have 12 units. Tenants are not expected until December 2019.

Ms. Bakalar advised she met with Bob Dale, owner of the Henderson Lumber property, for an update. They have not yet closed on the property purchase, but the closing should be soon.

Planning Update

IL-2 Public Presentation – will be presented at the April 17th P&Z meeting. This is the area by Planet Fitness which is in final draft form.

P&Z Clerk – P&Z has requested this position be budgeted from part time to full time. We currently have temporary staff in the position.

Mr. Marcus made a motion to submit a letter to the Board of Finance in support of a full time clerk based on the amount of activity and income every application generates for the town. Ms. Kaufman seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Ms. Bakalar stated she will draft the letter and distribute it to the Commission for their comments. The letter will be submitted by Friday to the Board of Finance.

In addition, Mr. LeVino made a motion to follow-up with a second letter to the Town Council as necessary, and the motion was seconded by Eve McGrath and unanimously approved.

Long Hill Green Plan – we have 5 projects underway. Construction for the right hand turn lane will be starting mid-April or after Memorial Day. It will be a marked improvement to the traffic flow.

Grant Update

319 Grant to DEEP – we are applying for \$244,000 to continue the stormwater management patio permeable pavement on Broadway and bioswale on the Green.

Event Update

Restaurant Week (September 21-27th) – The next meeting of the Committee will be at Parkers in late April.

In addition to restaurants, we plan to invite eateries, delis, Starbucks, coffee shops, pizzerias and Insports and movie theaters with eateries in them. There will be different promotional tiers (pre-fix menu, a cocktail, two for one, etc.) and also activities for high school and college students with special pricing. Ms. McGrath advised that the Director of the business program at Trumbull High School informed her students will design a logo and present us with options. The high school has also inquired about the possibility of a summer internship for marketing the event.

There may be a kickoff event with Whalburgers at the mall and we will be advertising on the radio, in the newspaper and on Facebook. It will also be promoted on Trumbull Eats and What's Cookin & Brewin in Trumbull.

Ms. Bakalar noted the First Selectman commented on legislative initiatives and this information can be accessed on line. She then referred to the handout, Basics of the Development Process and Trumbull Land Use Board, to review guidelines of the land use process. If there are any questions, you can contact her or Rob Librandi. A basic training course may be planned in the future.

Sustainable Committee Group - Mr. LeVino stated they met with the Conservation Commission last week. He informed three high school students attended and are working on eliminating straws at the high school. The students hoped we can do the same at the mall. Ms. Bakalar advised there is legislation moving thru the state right now. She requested Mr. LeVino report each month on the Sustainable Committee Group activities.

First Selectman Tesoro thanked the Commission for their contributions and said she is excited about restaurant week as it's a great addition to the town. She then requested the Commission read The State of the Town address which gives an overview of the town and what is happening.

Opportunity for Community Input - None

There being no further business or community input, Vice Chairman Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m., accepted by Ms. McGrath, seconded by Mr. Marcus and voted in favor unanimously by the Commission. The next meeting will be held on May 7, 2019 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz

