Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 7th, 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 April 7th, 2026.

Attendance

Members Present: Beryl Kaufman, Chairman
Justin Scheuble, Vice Chairman
Evelyn Zamary, Secretary
Patricia Borghesan
Fred Petrossi

Members Absent: Leyla Fayyaz
Marshal Marcus

Also Present: Rina Bakalar, Director of Economic & Community Development
Dan Onofrio, President & CEO Bridgeport Regional Business Council
Gia Mentillo, Clerk
Trumbull Community Television

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of March 3, 2026, Minutes

A motion to approve the March 3, 2026, minutes was made by Vice Chairman Scheuble and seconded by Commissioner Borghesan. The motion was carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

There was nothing new to report from the Chairman.

Director's Report

Business Update:

Director Bakalar informed that there was a ground breaking ceremony at 9 Trefoil Drive this past month for Henkel Corporation's new research and development facility which will be their third facility in town. This approximately $70 million investment will bring many high-quality research and development jobs to Trumbull. The Director provided an overview of Henkel Corporation and how their decision to expand in Trumbull came about. She asked the Commission to share information on the project with the community.

The Director noted the ribbon cutting ceremony held at the new Pediatric Healthcare Associates building at 6600 Main Street, informing that the building currently has a temporary certificate of occupancy.

Director Bakalar stated that Kubtec (a manufacturing, research and development, and technology company) is working through the design and planning phase for the fit out of the building they purchased at 75 Merritt Blvd. Once they are ready to move forward with construction, there will be a ground breaking ceremony for the facility.

Director Bakalar informed that Oggi Gelato will be opening in a portion of the former Massage Envy space, and Prime One Eleven will be expanding into the remainder of the space. She shared that Mi Scusi, a take out and catering business, will be moving into the former DrewbaQ space and the fit out of the building is moving swiftly.

The Director informed that the project on the Trumbull/Monroe town line (formerly known as Gateway Commons) is expected to move forward in the near future. The three-story mixed use development was approved several years ago. The Town has been meeting with the prospective new project owners and Monroe officials to ensure there is coordination in the multi-town permitting process. The Director will work to hold a ground breaking ceremony. She informed that the second half of the sewer infrastructure related to the project will be underway soon, noting that these improvements are being made by the original project developer. The Director will be featuring this project at the Fairfield County Commercial Broker Network at Town Hall at the end of May.

Director Bakalar stated she will share a more comprehensive briefing on the Trumbull Mall during the next ECDC meeting. She noted that the broker listing for the property and its reference to the Town's work to undertake a comprehensive study of the area and implement updated zoning for the site exemplify how Town efforts are critical to attracting investment to the area. She informed that the Town is maintaining close communication with mall representatives at this time. Per Commissioner Borghesan's inquiry, Director Bakalar clarified that the sale of the Sono Mall is not expected to impact the sale of the Trumbull Mall as the existing circumstances and future prospects for the two sites differ.

Community Development Update:

The Director provided an overview of the senior housing project coming to 12 Cambridge Drive, clarifying that this project will be constructed behind the existing commercial office building. The project is for 124 units of senior housing, 10% of which are designated affordable, and construction is expected to start in the coming months. Also in the area, construction of the storage facility at 6 Cambridge Drive is expected to commence imminently, a 48-unit apartment project has been approved on Reservoir Avenue, and a 150 unit apartment development on Reservoir Avenue was recently denied by the Planning & Zoning Commission, a decision which is being appealed in court. The Director stated this to potentially be a lot of work happening in a small area at once, noting that the Town will work to coordinate the various projects and minimize disruptions.

Director Bakalar provided an overview of and update on the community gardens project, phase two of which has commenced at the Senior Center. Parks Superintendent Dmitri Paris and Senior Center Director Michele Jakab have been close partners on this project. Director Jakab is creating programming for the ADA accessible community garden space at the Center which will help residents take advantage of the many benefits of growing their own food. Grant funding for this project was secured with the support of Representative Keitt.

The Director provided an overview and update on the Upper Long Hill Schoolhouse Restoration project, informing that the structure will be assembled on Town Hall property next to the Trumbull Library, facing Church Hill Road. She stated fundraising efforts are underway for the project and asked that the Commission help with this effort by sharing information on the project with their networks. Commissioner Borghesan noted the informational display for the project at Town Hall. The Director stated that project partner John Naeher of Christian Heritage School has been a tremendous asset to the project in terms of planning, securing volunteers, and acquiring donations in the form of professional labor and supplies. Director Bakalar stated the project to be a true community effort, noting that there will be community build days once the project commences. She informed the town is looking to raise

$20-30,000 for various project components. Per Chairman Kaufman's inquiry, Director Bakalar informed that she is working to identify potential grant funding for the project (along with historical society members Deborah Silber and Nancy Fisher) but has not yet found a suitable opportunity.

Grant Update:

Director Bakalar shared that the Town submitted a community project funding application with Congressman Himes's office in the amount of $600,000 for a project at Stern Village for various improvements to the congregate building and village units. She informed that if the project is selected by the Congressman's office it will then go to committee for consideration in the federal budget which can take a significant amount of time.

The Director stated her intent to apply for another Microgrant through MetroCOG and CT DOT for $5,000 toward bike safety programming and helmets, noting that the Town was awarded this grant last year to install bike racks in various locations throughout town.

Event Update:

Director Bakalar stated that the Fairfield County Commercial Broker Network luncheon in the Trumbull Chambers in May is open invite, and she encouraged commissioners to attend.

The Director informed she is working to connect with the general manager of the Trumbull Marriott to garner insights on their upcoming facility improvements and whether those will impact the Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast.

BRBC Update

Dan Onofrio shared information on the following upcoming events, encouraged the Commission to attend, and asked that they share the events with their networks:

- Trumbull Chamber of Commerce meeting on April 23rd at 8:30a.m. at 4 Core Financial (35 Nutmeg Drive, Trumbull)
- Coffee & Connections, a business networking event, on May 6th at 4:00p.m. at the Maefair Center for Health and Rehabilitation (21 Maefair Court, Trumbull)
- Non-Profit Resource Open House (in partnership with the Milford Chamber of Commerce) on April 30th at 8:00a.m. at Connoisseur Media (440 Wheelers Farm Road, Milford)

Mr. Onofrio stated that the BRBC has been working with the CBIA to promote legislation supporting small businesses.

Opportunity for Community Input

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:26p.m. by Vice Chairman Scheuble and seconded by Commissioner Petrossi. The motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gia Mentillo, ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi