

## MEETING MINUTES

### Trumbull Veterans & First Responders Building Committee

Via Zoom

Thursday, May 27, 2021, 7:00 pm

#### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Baldwin at 7:00 pm.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**

#### **Attendance**

##### **Present:**

Ray Baldwin, Chairman  
Dan Sacco  
Steve Lemoine  
Michael Lombardo  
Dawn Cantafio

##### **Absent:**

Bruce Silverstone  
MaryBeth Thornton  
Preston Merritt

#### **Also Present:**

George Wiles, Wiles Architects  
Rina Bakalar, Town of Trumbull Economic & Community Development Director  
George Estrada, Town of Trumbull Public Works Director  
Jim Nugent, Town of Trumbull Attorney  
Vicki Tesoro, First Selectman, Town of Trumbull  
Bill Chin, Town of Trumbull IT Director

#### **Public Comment:**

Anna Wuchek of 30 Academy Road, Trumbull, is interested in volunteering for the TVFR Building Committee, particularly with on-line fundraising platform.

#### **Approval of Minutes from April 27, 2021 Meeting**

Moved by Mr. Lombardo and seconded by Mr. Lemoine to approve the April 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes. **Vote: 4-0-0 (D. Cantafio Abstained)**

#### **Discussion on allocation of STEAP grant money**

Ms. Bakalar noted that the grant money is now in and will run through how to apply the grant to make sure everyone is on board.

The \$128k grant will be done in phases: first phase will be to demolish existing building, then next step is to put out for public bid, evaluate the bids and strategize where to go from there.

## **Discussion of fundraising and grant strategies** (Rina Bakalar)

Ms. Bakalar submitted for federal government earmark to Rep. Himes', Sen. Blumenthal's and Sen. Murphy's offices. Rep. Himes did not select our project. He gave feedback which is to broaden the appeal of the project, look at different name for center/project because it came across as too broad. Ms Bakalar and Ms. Tesoro are scheduled to have a conference call on June 1 regarding this.

Ms. Bakalar and Ms. Tesoro also met with Sen. Moore and talked about submitting for state bond funds. Ms Bakalar must submit paperwork and said the challenge is state bond funds will not pay full construction budget and we will have to get in line for bond funding.

Ms. Bakalar said she will talk to Sen. Blumenthal and Sen. Murphy to see if a smaller amount would make project more appealing and she will follow-up with state to let them know we are submitting to Senators' office. Have to keep pushing them.

Mr. Baldwin talked to Mr. Rutigliano and S. Scanlon, head of Tweed Airport, about the project. He also met with volunteers interested in the project. One thing we need to do is have a brochure to present to small and medium donors and prepare a bigger presentation to large companies, such as Amazon, etc. Mr. Wiles volunteered as he has worked on brochures for other fundraisers. Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Sacco to work with him on this.

Mr. Sacco said we should get back to looking at levels of donations. Mr. Baldwin asked Mr. Chin about setting up an informational website on the project to get the word out. Would also like to have a link for the on-line donations.

Mr. Wiles will do a draft brochure and rough draft of website and forward to Mr. Chin.

Mr. Baldwin stated we have to talk to Maria Pires, Director of Finance, about setting up an account for funds. Mr. Baldwin will call Mr. Martin, Assistant Finance Director, for assistance with this.

Mr. Wiles has concerns with soil to support septic system. He wants to meet with Mr. Estrada to see what we can do. This will be the second phase. Soil is currently not conducive to get percolation rate needed for septic.

Ms. Cantafio asked if this bid process needs to go through approval of Town Council. Mr. Nugent said we must work with Purchasing and do not need approval from Town Council.

Mr. Nugent said we must file an application with Inlands Wetlands Commission, explain the project and how the building will be used. The Commission will want to understand the effect on wetlands and what regulations apply. Mr. Nugent will assist with application process.

Mr. Nugent said we will need a soil scientist for the Inland Wetlands Committee. Mr. Wiles said we have a lot of soil test results, but don't have a solution. If there is no solution, will have to remove and replace engineered fill for septic. Mr. Nugent recommends speaking with Jim Cordone, Trumbull Town Attorney, about this issue first.

For June meeting: Work with Mr. Wiles on brochure/website, talk to Mr. Cordone on what to do about Inland Wetlands, Mr. Wiles will do RFP for demolition work – will work with Mr. Bova, Purchasing Agent.

Ms. Tesoro advised that the Inland Wetlands Commission will have a meeting in July but not in August. Mr. Baldwin wants to get on their agenda for a preliminary meeting.

**Discussion of business plan** (Bruce Silverstone, Steve Lemoine & Dan Sacco)

This discussion will take place during next meeting scheduled for June 30 at 7:00 pm. Primarily will be website/brochure, update on Inland Wetlands meeting, business plan review and talk to Mr. Martin about setting up an account for monetary contributions.

Ms. Tesoro informed committee that the application deadline to Inland Wetlands is June 22.

**Other business to come before the Commission:** None

**Adjournment**

Moved by Mr. Lemoine, seconded by Mr. Sacco to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 pm. Vote: **5-0-0**

Submitted by

Marisa Petriello