

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 5, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
***Please note meeting time change**
Trumbull Town Hall Long Hill Conference Room

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held in Trumbull Town Hall Long Hill Conference Room on September 5, 2023.

Attendance

Members Present: Beryl Kaufman (Chairman)
Evelyn Zamary (Secretary)
Marshall Marcus
Massimo Mallozzi
Terrence Griffiths
Leyla Fayyaz

Members Absent: Karen DelVecchio (Vice Chairman)
Ralph Sather
Fred Petrossi

Also Present: Rina Bakalar – Director of Economic & Community Development
Vicki A. Tesoro – Trumbull First Selectman
Gia Mentillo – Economic & Community Development Clerk
Trumbull Community Television

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of August 1, 2023 Minutes

The Chair asked that the August 1, 2023 minutes be revised to correct typos on pages one and two. A motion to approve as amended the August 1, 2023 minutes was made by Commissioner Marcus and seconded by Commissioner Zamary. The motion carried unanimously. *Commissioners Mallozzi and Fayyaz abstained.*

Chairman's Report

The Chairman noted the news article on Trumbull Restaurant Week. Ms. Mentillo will poll the Commission to determine the time of the next regularly scheduled Economic & Community Development Commission (ECDC) meeting.

Leyla Fayyaz was introduced as a newly appointed commissioner for the ECDC. Karen DelVecchio will no longer serve as a commissioner as she has been appointed as an alternate member for the Trumbull Planning & Zoning Commission (and will be a commissioner candidate in November).

Director's Report

Business Update

There will be a ribbon cutting for 4 Core Financial (35 Nutmeg Drive) on Friday, October 6th at 1:00pm-3:00pm. The business, owned by Joe Violette, moved to Trumbull earlier this year and is also sponsoring 2023 Trumbull Restaurant Week. The Director is working to schedule future ribbon cutting events for the new Hartford Healthcare facility (Trumbull Center), Paul's Haircutters (Trumbull Center), and Transpak Inc. (120 Corporate Drive).

123 Pronto is a new catering and grab-and-go business moving to 123 Monroe Turnpike. The business is run by experienced restauranteurs who have previously owned restaurants in Monroe, Newtown, and Trumbull. The facilities will likely be open by the end of September. Another new restaurant will be moving into the Quality Street Plaza near subway in the coming months.

A new phone store is opening at the Trumbull Mall. Mall representatives and leasing agents are in regular discussion with the Director and are making clear efforts to fill vacancies. They are also working to update exterior building signage. The Director hopes to host the December Fairfield County Commercial Broker Network meeting at the Trumbull Mall.

Residences on Main have cleaned up their adopt a spots. The adopt-a-spot locations previously sponsored by the Trumbull Mall will be taken over by Ken Martin of Raveis Real Estate. The Director spoke with CT DOT regarding cleaning up the parkway bridge in that area. The Director requested assistance from the Commission in attaining sponsors for the adopt-a-spot program and offered to meet with members to review the program in more depth. Commissioner Marcus suggested compiling a list of local landscapers that sponsors can consider utilizing to maintain their sign locations in order to simplify the process.

First Selectman Tesoro thanked the Commission for their contributions to Trumbull.

The Director met with CT Main Street Center who is utilizing a new tool to evaluate the department's economic and community development methods and strategies. Suggestions garnered from this assessment will help to improve said mechanisms.

The survey of Trumbull businesses was circulated and received about 60 respondents. Department MBA intern, Anthony Sweet, will be reviewing the survey results which will be used to guide future programming and resources for supporting local businesses.

Community Development Update:

The new traffic light outside of Prime One Eleven is now fully operational. Once the landscaping is installed this fall, the project will be completely finalized.

There is a community meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Board of Education Administration Building, 6254 Main Street to provide updates on all infrastructure / construction projects in the Long Hill Green Village District. Staff and project consultants will be talking with residents to determine what people want to see happen with the Long Hill green space.

Another community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Trumbull Library (33 Quality Street) to inform residents of ongoing efforts pertaining to the Trumbull Mall Area Market Feasibility and Land Use Study. This will include study findings to-date, possible future scenarios for the area, and an opportunity for community input.

Planning Update:

Town Planner, Rob Librandi, is leading efforts to update the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) as state statute dictates a new plan must be developed at least every 10 years. Trumbull's new POCD is due April of 2024. Mr. Librandi and plan consultants may attend a future ECDC meeting.

Grant Update:

There is a grant resolution being put before Town Council this October regarding an application for the Safe Streets for All federal DOT funding opportunity. The application is to attain \$8.8 million in funds to put toward \$10 million project to improve the Trumbull Center Corridor. Elements of this application were guided by the 2022 Trumbull Center Corridor Study.

The Director submitted a grant application for the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) to renovate the house located at 579 Church Hill Road and add an adjacent public pocket park. The intent is to use the building for Town archives (for municipal use only) while preserving and promoting the historical significance of the area.

Grant consultant Bryan Tamburrino is working to submit an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) on behalf of the Town in hopes of funding a project to retrofit the lighting fixtures at the Police Department which will help to reduce energy costs.

There is a need for an additional \$1.2 million in construction funding for the Trumbull Veterans and First Responder Center. A supplemental bonding request is pending via State Senator Moore and our delegation. Also, thanks to Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, the project has received committee approval for 1.2 million in funding. If the federal budget passes, the funding will be approved. More information on the project can be found at www.trumbullvfr.org.

Event Update:

The Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast will be on Friday, October 27th at 8:30am at the Trumbull Marriott. Invitations will be circulated within the month.

Trumbull Restaurant Week 2023 will be Friday, October 13th through Friday, October 20th. Event coordination is well underway. The Director thanked the team of volunteers and Gia Mentillo for their efforts organizing the event. She also thanked event sponsors: 4 Core Financial, Sound Development, Newtown Savings Bank, AFC Urgent Care, and Trumbull Chamber of Commerce. The Commission was asked to help grow awareness for the event and to help place lawn signs throughout town. Commissioner Fayyaz suggested reaching out to Dianna Morissey to help promote the event as she is a Trumbull resident with a local business and large Instagram following.

The Chairman asked whether there were plans for 6448 Main Street as it recently sold to a new owner. The Director stated that the new owner has not submitted any specific plans to-date.

The Director informed that Greater Bridgeport Transit (GBT) has extended several bus routes, some of which run through Trumbull and will increase public access to the region. The Director will be following up on a micro transit grant she submitted earlier this year to implement an on demand GBT service in Trumbull to offer residents, employees, and others transit to and from bus stations. This would help to fill gaps in local public transit.

Sustainable Trumbull Update

None.

BRBC Update

None.

Opportunity for Community Input

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:55p.m. by Commissioner Zamary and seconded Commissioner Mallozzi. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi