

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Notes
November 12, 2019 - 7:15 p.m.
Trumbull Town Hall

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Commissioners: Evelyn Zamary, Shelby LeVino, Jeanne Gibbs

Not Present: Commissioners Beryl Kaufman, Eve McGrath, Marshall Marcus, Eric Michel and Mark Smith

Public: Paul Griffith (33 Wilson Avenue, Trumbull)

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and since there was no quorum, the October 1, 2019 minutes will be presented at the December 3rd meeting for approval.

Director's Report

Business Update & Community Development Update

Make-A-Wish - Tomorrow is the hard hat tour. Commissioners can bring a guest but must RSVP.

Raveis (Trumbull Office) – is having a Shop & Sip tomorrow to benefit charity at 5:30 p.m.

Escapology Grand Opening – The December 12th grand opening has been cancelled and they are looking at another date. Ms. Bakalar will confirm.

Mathnasium – has moved to 123 Monroe Turnpike and is taking the front corner of that building. The ribbon cutting is planned for Sunday, January 5th at noon.

Bakery Outreach Project – We have sent out packages for bakery recruitment for Trumbull. A follow up is planned.

Trumbull Mall – Ms. Bakalar will attend the monthly leasing meeting at the Mall. There are many things in the works and she will be getting an update.

Networking in Diners – Ms. Bakalar will be the key speaker tomorrow at Pop's Diner in Milford.

ECDC Business Notes– A prototype of our new ECDC business notes with branding will be presented at our next meeting. The notes will be used by the Commissioners to welcome businesses and offer assistance.

Arts & Economic Development Forum (Fairfield) - Last Friday, Commissioners Jeanne Gibbs and Beryl Kaufman joined Ms. Bakalar at the Arts & Economic Development Forum in Fairfield that discussed the impact of the arts on economic development. Ms. Bakalar

plans to meet with the First Selectman and suggested the Arts Commission and our Economic Development Commission have meetings twice a year to discuss opportunities.

Dessert Crawl – Ms. Bakalar stated we have many great dessert spots in town so we may want to consider a mid-year dessert celebration.

Community Development – 100 Oakview – is slightly behind schedule and will be tentatively leasing in January.

River Valley Development – the 55 + independent living across the street from 100 Oakview, is moving along. They both share the same construction management company.

Henderson Lumber Site – the property closed the end of September and was transferred to developer Bob Dale. There has been tree work at the site in preparation for demolition and construction.

The IL-2 study is almost complete and in the final draft form. It was reviewed by Mr. Librandi and Ms. Bakalar and there will be additional work on conceptual development. Contained within the plan, is the recommendation to brand the area. Once the plan is finalized, the Commission will receive a copy. The plan will be presented to Planning & Zoning and the ECDC Commission is invited.

The Monthly Fairfield Country Brokers Network – We are planning to schedule a luncheon in January/February which will be hosted in the IL-2 Zone. Our consultant, Rob Librandi (Land Use Planner) and Ms. Bakalar will highlight priorities for that area so attendees can see the vision for change. The Commission is invited.

Graffiti - Mr. Wenz, Blight Officer, is keeping surveillance of the Merritt Parkway underpass and other areas in town for graffiti. If damaged, a special “paint over” product is used to remove the graffiti when it is first detected to discourage repeat offenders.

IL-3 Study (Corporate Park) – A lot is happening at the Corporate Park in that property owners are pulling together an association and have a list of priorities they are feeding into the plan. The study will be completed soon.

Ms. Bakalar announced we have a company interested in one of the last fully vacant buildings in the Corporate Park. Bus service is a challenge since it was discontinued due to no ridership. Ms. Bakalar stated she has been in touch with Doug Holcomb from the Greater Bridgeport Transit Service and he is willing to work with us to resolve the issue as well as State reps and the transit district.

Boulevard Study (Trumbull Center) – It is near final draft form and we will be hiring a consultant. The study will be reviewed by the Town Engineer and it will go out to RFQ. It encompasses both sides of the corridor from Tate Avenue to Reservoir Avenue. If anyone is interested in seeing the draft, Ms. Bakalar will send a copy.

Grant Update

Kiosk - A new kiosk has been installed at Old Mine Park. It was a grant project and is a fully fabricated three sided kiosk that replaced the old wooden one. It displays cultural heritage, natural resource information and way finding information. Volunteer Don Watson,

did a majority of the work with assistance from our Historical Society and the Conservation Commission. A dedication is pending.

Long Hill Green – A major portion of the patio project is completed. It is a storm water management project that will also bring new function to the area.

The next project will be the sidewalk down to Dunellen which will help connect the lower neighborhood to the Green. There will be a retaining wall installed with a natural, New England type stone. Business owners are responsible for tables on the patio and their maintenance. We have planters on order that will act as decorative as well as a safety mechanism and are expected in 5 weeks.

A conduit for lighting is available if property owners want to install additional lighting in the future. The grant project is complete pending planters and educational signage. The educational signage explains this is a storm water management project for the Pequonnock River with environmental benefits. Ms. Bakalar will be working with Gary Sorge and Mary Ellen Lemay to compose language for the sign and decide where it is to be located.

Greenscape changes – We are working on them and they will probably be last.

Chips Light – Ms. Bakalar displayed the concept drawing and the design package. She advised we are at 30% design for the Chips light and the trail redirect. The package will be sent to DOT for comment and then into full design, out for construction bidding and then to construction. Some easements will be required. The project is moving along and will be a major improvement to the area when installed.

The existing cross walk will be improved on a temporary basis and the Town Engineer is waiting for the encroachment permit from the State. Once received, the existing crosswalk will get beacon lights.

Event Update

Chairman Sather and Ms. Bakalar agreed the Breakfast was a huge success and they will consider a larger room next year. Ms. Bakalar stated they received great feedback from the community. Chairman Sather stated it was the best breakfast in 10 years adding the right people were there, the right speakers were there, it was busy and there was a lot of networking. Chairman Sather mentioned we will discuss at our next meeting having a third award.

Home Business/Cottage Industry Event- We will be hosting along with other partners, a home business/cottage industry event in the spring. Ms. Bakalar stated she is working with a core team of people from different organizations and will advise of a date. She requested if the Commissioners know of anyone in that type of business, to please tell them about it and advise her as she is compiling a list.

Restaurant Week – We developed a survey and Ms. Bakalar will be visiting restaurants to get their feedback which has been extremely positive. There was a de-brief with the team for suggestions for next year. Ms. Bakalar advised we will double the amount of signs, start meeting as a group in March or April and will begin promoting the event earlier in the year.

Sustainable Committee Group – Mr. LeVino

Mr. Levino stated he met with the Economic Development Director at their first official meeting and progress is slow but moving forward.

Opportunity for Community Input

Paul Griffith, recommended the cottage businesses use the website LOCALEYES.MOBI which offers them free publicity. He also suggested to name the section of Reservoir Avenue – “New Brevity”.

The next meeting will be held on December 3, 2019 in the Long Hill Room and Chairman Sather announced we will be electing officers. There being no further business or community input, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka
ECDC Clerk

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz