

## Economic & Community Development Commission

Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2012 7:15 PM

Trumbull Town Hall

### I. Attendance

**Commission:** Chairman Ralph Sather, Vice Chairman Gary Bean, Scott Wich, William Haberlin, Beryl Kaufman, and Thomas Ginis.

**Town Staff:** Daniel Nelson, Edward Lavernoich

### II. Old Business

Mr. Sather called the meeting to order at 7:20 PM. He passed out the agenda, the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting minutes for review, and other materials to go with discussion items on the agenda. Mr. Sather made a motion to approve the October 3, 2012 minutes. Mrs. Kaufman stated that there should be a change under new business on the last bullet; and should read "Greater Bridgeport Board of Realtors".

Mr. Sather requested a motion to accept the minutes. Mr. Bean made a motion to accept the minutes as amended which was seconded by Mr. Wich. The vote was unanimously in favor of approval, 5-0.

### III. New Commission Business

Mr. Lavernoich reviewed the current development activity reports, providing detailed updates for the Quarry Road project, and the IMAX Theater renovations. Mr. Lavernoich reported that SecureMark has completed its move to Nutmeg Drive, and has changed the name of the local business operation to Hologram Industries. He reported that the Fitness Edge project at 41-51 Monroe Turnpike may be expanded by ten thousand square feet ; and there are two restaurants going into this location, one being Chip's Pancakes, and the other Grill 111. Mr. Lavernoich reported that a restaurant has committed to the former Dunkin Donuts space in Trumbull Center, but the name and operator cannot be publicly disclosed at this time.

Mr. Wich inquired about the status of the CT DOT's proposed work on White Plains Road. Mr. Nelson stated that the expansion plans are suspended at this time and he has not heard any recent updates. Mr. Wich said that if for some reason the State is

not going to pursue the existing roadway-widening plans, he hoped that the money reserved for the project could still be utilized for making the road safer.

Mr. Lavernoich reported on the previous night's Planning and Zoning Commission meeting, discussing the concerns voiced by neighbors of the proposed cancer outpatient center on Park Avenue.

Mr. Lavernoich reported on the business meetings that he and P&D Director Jamie Bratt have been having. He ran down the list of companies that have been visited as of the meeting date. There was discussion regarding how to use the contacts. The closing of the Garden Exchange on Madison Avenue was discussed, as well as potential reuses for the property.

Mr. Lavernoich reported on the status of the Plan of Conservation and Development, discussing Mrs. Bratt's intention to hold focus groups is going to meet with 8-10 focus groups by the end of the year. He stated that Planimetrics, the Town's planning consultant, would be starting to draft the new POCD in the next month or so. He showed the Commissioners two reports that had been produced to-date by Planimetrics: one was a summary of the community input session held in late September; the other was a compilation of updated socio-economic, demographic, and fiscal information on the Town. Mr. Lavernoich promised that he would e-mail the reports to the Commissioners.

Mr. Ginis arrived at 8:09 PM. Mr. Lavernoich spoke to the Commission about the tax incentive ordinance, which was adopted by the Town Council on November 8<sup>th</sup>. He distributed the adopted version of the ordinance to the Commissioners, with an attached excerpt of the minutes of the Town Council's meeting. Mr. Lavernoich said that a draft of the standardized form that was called for in the ordinance would be completed by the commission's December meeting, at which he would seek feedback from the commission prior to sending the form to the Tax partnership Screening Committee.

Mr. Sather discussed the work of the Marketing subcommittee. The creation of a data base with contact information for businesses in Town was discussed; there was general agreement that the data base could be useful for all nature of two way communications between Town officials and local businesses, especially related to storm events and public safety. The hiring of a college intern was discussed,

whether working solely for credit or a modest payment, to establish the data base and create a system for ongoing maintenance of the data.

Mr. Lavernoich reported that no formal notice has been given to the Town regarding the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant that was applied for in July, or the Main Street Investment Fund grant that was applied for September.

Mr. Lavernoich read the excerpt from the Town Charter regarding the election of officers. The timing and logistics of electing new officers relative to the First Selectman's upcoming appointments of 3 commissioners was discussed. It was agreed that the election of the officers needed to occur at the December meeting. Mr. Lavernoich gave a brief overview of Roberts Rules related to nomination and election of officers.

Mr. Sather stated that he will be out of the country for the next meeting and Vice Chairman Mr. Bean will be chairing the meeting.

IV. Community Input

No members of the community were in attendance.

V. Adjournment

Mr. Sather requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Kaufman made the motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Mr. Ginis. By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 PM.