

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
March 4th 2015 7:15pm
Trumbull Town Hall

Commission: Thom Ginis, Beryl Kaufman, John Pisinski, Evelyn Zamary, Scott Zimov

Staff: Economic and Community Development Director Edward Lavernoich

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Mr. Sather called the meeting to order at 7:17pm. Mr. Zimov made a motion to approve the January 7th meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Kaufman, and unanimously approved by the commission.

The commission began to discuss the upcoming Business Appreciation Breakfast for 2015. Ms. Zamary stated that she would call to book the same location (The Marriott) as last year for the 1st Wednesday of June depending on availability. The commission spoke about a speaker to be the focus for the breakfast. They mentioned it would be interesting, as well as beneficial to have a “futurist” type of speaker that would be able to determine the best practices for towns similar to Trumbull. He or she would give a future prospective on the broader business trends that have an influence on towns like Trumbull.

Mr. Lavernoich began to discuss with the commission the current business development within the town of Trumbull as of the end of February. The following items were noted during the meeting:

Mathnasium (math learning center) will be a new tenant in the former Frame Creations space and is expected to occupy the space sometime in early March. The production of the structural steel for the new office building of the Bridgeport Hospital Cancer Outpatient Center began in late February. Enlargement of the planned building on the southern part of the Marisa’s property has started and the building plans expected to be submitted to the building department sometime in March. US EPA and CT DEEP have decided that 408 Shelton Road is qualified for assessment with Brownfields Petroleum Assessment funding. Leggette, Brashears & Graham, Inc. of Shelton were chosen to perform the Environmental Site Assessment, and the GBRC is entering into a contract with them to allow work to begin in April. The commission stated how well done the conceptual plans for the Long Hill Village property was. Also, there is a possibility of a new cell tower site being put up in a wooded area near Beach Memorial Park. Mr. Lavernoich told the commission that he has to acquire Park and Recreation Commission approval, a report from the Planning and Zoning Commission, Town Council approval, as well as approval by the CT Siting Council. Lastly, plans for the approximate 80,000 square foot warehouse of Cooper surgical were approved at the February Planning and Zoning meeting.

The commission went on to briefly discuss the Electronic Newsletter. Ms. Kaufman informed the commission that she would do a write-up of updates and recent news for the Newsletter that can be edited by March 18th and distributed. Mr. Lavernoich mentioned that there has been nothing, but positive feedback from the Electronic Newsletter. Mr. Zimov volunteered to see if he could get pictures in the Newsletter that can be sent via email.

Mr. Sather updated the commission on the progress of the new marketing video for the Town of Trumbull and Mr. Lavernoich did a re-cap of the possible participants for the video. As mentioned in the December meeting, some of which include: Ed Freedman, owner of Shearwater Coffee Roasters. Steve Hodson, very active Trumbull based realtor and resident. Pat Fahy, owner of "Parker. Steak & Scotch." Byron Campbell & Steve Kline, owners of Firelight Media. Chris Adams, the Asset Manager of Digital Realty. Robert A Scinto, Robert D. Scinto, Inc., owner of Cooper Surgical. Mr. Sather, Mr. Lavernoich, along with the remainder of the commission are hopeful the progress of the marketing video will quickly pick up within the coming weeks.

The commission was updated on the retail rental rate study and what it includes: Preparation of qualification and submission, information and inquiries, and the selection process. There is also an attachment that includes which bids are received by which bidder and what the amount from that bidder would be. Mr. Lavernoich also showed the commission what had been received from Vimini Valuation Services, LLC. The letter included an overview of what the company does and has done in the past.

Mr. Sather gave the commission a draft of the goals for 2015. He suggested to the commission that the members look over the goals and add/retract anything they felt necessary in order to put together a final version of the goals for the ECDC commission.

Mr. Paul Griffith was present at the meeting; he brought to the attention of the commission that he has posted the link for the Trumbull Newsletter on his two business webpages.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Pisinski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Zimov, and carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.