

**Town of Trumbull  
Economic and Community Development Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
May 11, 2016 7:15 p.m.  
Trumbull Town Hall**

***Being there was no quorum, these notes are for discussion purposes only.***

Chairman: Ralph Sather

Present: Commissioners Beryl Kaufman, Jackie Galiani, Tom Ginis

Director of Economic & Community Development: Rina Bakalar

Chairman Sather called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. and minutes were reviewed.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Bakalar stated she will be submitting a \$440,000 grant request to the Main Street Innovation Fund at the end of the month for improvements to Long Hill Green. The funding source is the State Department of Housing and although this grant is competitive, it does not require a match from the town. This grant allows investment dollars to improve aesthetics, greenspace, signage, sidewalks, pedestrian access, and façade improvements for areas like Long Hill Green and Trumbull Center. Ms. Bakalar noted that she consulted with Tiche & Bond to determine the budget for the following improvements:

- (1) Sidewalk Connection down Whitney to Dunnellen - The developer has installed sidewalks to a certain point and this grant will extend the sidewalks as the first leg of the connection of the trail to Indian Ledge. The sidewalks will reach down to Dunnellen Street and will connect pedestrian access for this neighborhood connection.
- (2) Improvements to the Green – Ms. Bakalar endorses a simplification of the green. Currently, the gazebo is not usable as a performance space and there are many random plantings. The vision is to create a large central patio with granite benches and to install a high end, more user friendly gazebo. This patio concept will complement the adjacent restaurants and provide an incentive for nearby apartment dwellers and pedestrians to enjoy the green. The influx of pedestrians may also have a calming effect on traffic.
- (3) Closing Broadway (or a portion of it) - This plan is moving along – The idea would be to greenspace across the closed area and connect the greenspace to the property line which will result in a more natural look.

- (4) Branded Signature Look - To demarcate the green and other villages within the town with a special visible high quality sign or wall and create a branded signature look. She will consult with the Commission for suggestions.

Ms. Bakalar advised that this grant funding would be appropriated sometime around September.

She also informed the Commission that she applied for a STEAP Grant – (Small Town Economic Assistance Program Grant) to establish a trail/visitors center on White Plains Road in the house located to the right of the Plumb Building. The grant is still pending.

Commissioner Sather inquired if Marissa's will eventually be incorporated as part of Long Hill Green. Ms. Bakalar noted that she plans to request \$30,000 for the capital budget/plan for a more detailed plan for that area and also suggested that additional landscaping between Marissa's and the bridge.

Commissioner Sather inquired if there are future plans for expanded parking near Long Hill Green. Ms. Bakalar noted that there is a possibility that a dental practice may relocate and purchase two adjacent houses to the right of Franco Gianni's. The practice would be re-established in the rear of one home and the other would be demolished to accommodate 27-40 spaces. A use agreement would be created to allow parking during off hours by the neighboring businesses. State approval is required to move the driveway curtain to the far end of their lot so the town can close Broadway and scape it with grass.

Small Business Resource Event – Ms. Bakalar endorses supporting existing and new businesses in town at a much higher level and is coordinating a small business resource event for Trumbull businesses, developers, brokers and the Commission to learn about incentives and financing available. She noted that this has been done in other towns but not Trumbull. The event will be partnering with the Small Business Development Center and the Trumbull Chamber and will also engage DECD, the Manufacturing Innovation Fund, CTCIC, CEDF and others. It will be held in the Council Chambers in June or July – the date to be determined- and will be a yearly event.

Trumbull Center – An application for the three story building in Trumbull Center is moving through the process with a plan to demolish and redevelop the site for pharmacy, retail, etc... Ms. Bakalar advised that the Visitor's Center and extension/connection of the trail through Trumbull Center will bring additional pedestrian and bike traffic. The current plan is to bring the trail to the front of the Center, across Daniels Farm Road, adding signage to disembark, improving the sidewalk area and cutting back behind some of those buildings back to the trail. .

Boulevard Concept – Ms. Bakalar mentioned that she will be requesting funds in the 5 Year Capital plan to develop schematics and a plan/design to Boulevard the core Trumbull Center corridor. The concept will bring structural change to the corridor by widening the road and allowing pull in parking. This will slow traffic in the area and make the area more attractive to tenants and customers. The plan will need to go to MetroCog and the State for approval and funding. The State has been more open to these concepts due to their complete streets emphasis.

Ms. Bakalar will request \$12,000 in the 5 Year Capital Plan for a utility study to explore putting the utilities at Long Hill Green underground. The study is required by law before any such activity could be considered. Ms. Bakalar met with UI and they indicated they would be willing to contribute a portion of the cost, perhaps \$5,000 toward the \$12,000 required.

Economic & Community Development Website – All resource links on the website were tested and a summer intern will work to re-establish those that are broken.

Commission Membership – Chairman Sather announced that Jack Berg's term expired in December 2015 and John Pisinski has not expressed an interest to renew his membership.

Electronic Newsletter – Ms. Kaufman will be meeting with Ms. Bakalar to discuss a new format.

Ms. Bakalar noted that 19 small businesses have or will be opened which has created approximately 120 new jobs in town.

Keller Williams Realty has undertaken a community service project by renovating the teacher's lounge at Daniels Farm School.

There being no community input, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. – the next meeting being held on June 1, 2015 in the Long Hill Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Andreyka  
Administrative Assistant