

**Town of Trumbull**  
**Economic and Community Development Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 3, 2023 – 7:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting – Zoom Videoconferencing**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held via videoconferencing on January 3, 2023.

**Attendance**

**Members Present:** Beryl Kaufman (Chairman)  
Karen DelVecchio (Vice Chairman)  
Evelyn Zamary (Secretary)  
Marshall Marcus  
Ralph Sather  
Fred Petrossi  
Massimo Mallozzi

**Members Absent:** Terrence Griffiths

**Also Present:** Rina Bakalar – Director of Economic & Community Development  
Dan Onofrio – Bridgeport Regional Business Council  
William Chin – Director of Information Technology

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of December 6, 2022 Minutes**

A motion to approve the December 6, 2023 minutes was made by Commissioner Mallozzi and seconded by Vice Chairman DelVecchio. The motion carried unanimously. *Commissioners Marcus and Zamary abstained as they were absent from said meeting.*

**Chairman's Report**

Chairman Kaufman stated she would like to set 2023 goals for the Commission during the next regularly scheduled meeting and encouraged members to share suggestions with her.

**Director's Report**

**Business Update:**

Director Bakalar clarified that the Town was aware of the potential sale of the Westfield Trumbull Mall, though they were not notified of a closing date in advance. Though the main portion of the mall was sold, several separately owned buildings and parcels remain unchanged in terms of ownership (i.e. the Lord & Taylor space, Residences on Main, etc.). Ms. Bakalar and

First Selectman Tesoro will be meeting the new mall owner this week to discuss, amongst other things, the upcoming mall area study which is planned to commence this February. The previous mall owner, URW, will be working with the new owners to remedy the issues with the parking garage. Chairman Kaufman suggested contacting Amanda Cuda to ensure that future media coverage clarifies exactly what part of the mall was sold.

#### Community Development Update:

Ms. Bakalar is working on the annual report for the Economic and Community Development Department which will be shared with the Commission during the February meeting.

Trumbull public schools ranked #4 in CT, a fact which Ms. Bakalar plans to highlight through her department and include on the 2023 version of the “Why Trumbull” informational flyer.

The Town voted to use ARPA funds to conduct another round of the Local Meals program which commenced in December and has already garnered significant community interest.

The second round of the Main Street Dollars program will end on January 31<sup>st</sup> at which point Ms. Bakalar will create and disseminate a summary of the program based on results and feedback from participating businesses.

#### Grant Update:

Trumbull has received a grant to continue the green infrastructure project in the Long Hill Green Area, along Broadway Road. The Town has also received CT DOT approval for the intersection and sidewalk improvements in the area which have been put out to bid as two separate projects. Bids are due back around January 11<sup>th</sup>.

#### Event Update:

The Economic & Community Development Department will host a cyber-security event for local businesses this coming spring, planning for which will begin at the end of this month and engage local stakeholders such as BRBC and SBDC. Commissioner Mallozzi stated that he has created presentations for similar events in the past and offered to share those with Ms. Bakalar who welcomed his insights. Commissioner Petrossi and Mr. Onofrio offered their help as well.

#### Planning Update:

The project on the Monroe-Trumbull town line was recently at Trumbull’s Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission. Next, the project will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC).

PZC conducted a special meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup> during which they approved new zoning language which allows for applications for mixed use development to be submitted for Trumbull Center.

The final appeal regarding the project at 48 Monroe Turnpike was denied (meaning the ruling was in favor of the Town) and the project is likely to begin moving forward in 2023.

## **Sustainable Trumbull Team Update**

Commissioner Sather stated he would share the 2023 Sustainable Trumbull Team schedule with Chairman Kaufman for those who are interested, adding that he had no new updates to share. Ms. Bakalar informed she will be meeting with Mary Ellen Lemay to discuss the 1,000 Trees for Trumbull initiative.

Chairman Kaufman stated that attending the recycling drive at Trumbull High School (every second Saturday of the month) is a great educational opportunity in terms of recyclable materials.

## **BRBC Update:**

Dan Onofrio informed that the BRBC is gearing up for 2023. In doing so, they have hired Phil Connor to provide additional support to BRBC members; and they are working to create an economic and community development website using grant funding to serve as the centralized place of information for businesses and other stakeholders interested in the region.

Commissioner Marcus asked whether the position of Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) has been filled and expressed significant concerns regarding ongoing blight issues in town. Ms. Bakalar informed the hire for the position, Brian Fitzgerald, would be starting on January 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Opportunity for Community Input**

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

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:40p.m. by Commissioner Marcus and seconded by Commissioner Petrossi. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo  
ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi