

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2021 – 7:00 p.m.
Electronic Meeting-Zoom

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held via videoconferencing on January 5, 2021.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Members Present: Ralph Sather - Chairman, Beryl Kaufman - Vice Chairman, Evelyn Zarny - Secretary, Marshall Marcus, Shelby LeVino, Karen DeVecchio and Ted Chase.

Members Absent: Eric Michel, Eve McGrath

Also Present: Rina Bakalar - Director of Economic and Community Development
Madeline Marsh - Intern
William Chin - Director of Information Technology

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

Chairman's Report: Chairman Sather led the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the December 1, 2020 minutes was made by Commissioner Marcus and seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Ms. Bakalar reiterated that the clerk position has still not been filled. Ms. Bakalar noted that the Civil Service requirements are being reviewed.

Ms. Bakalar noted the success of the ribbon-cutting event for Capello Family Dentistry on December 3rd. She thanked those in attendance. She noted that we would be holding off on ribbon cuttings until the spring due to the uptick in COVID cases and the cold weather, which limits outside events.

Ms. Bakalar polled the Commission's interest in a presentation from Make a Wish CT at our February meeting. All Commissioners present expressed interest. Ms. Bakalar noted it is a special project which will benefit their clients and families but also our corporate park. She will pursue scheduling.

Ms. Bakalar provided highlights from her annual report prepared for First Selectman Tesoro. She noted the development and constant updating of the COVID Business Recovery Resource page on the website as well as the issuance of 102 updates to the business community that provided guidance, resources and technical assistance to businesses during this difficult time. She reviewed development projects underway or approved during the year, grants secured, planning efforts and new business openings.

Ms. Bakalar discussed the upcoming start up meeting with restaurants scheduled for Thursday. She noted Commission members were invited to listen in. The meeting will cover the new Local Meals program, how it will work and how to get involved as well as other opportunities for our restaurants.

Commissioner Marcus noted the sales tax issue and suggested that be touched on in the meeting.

Chairman Sather discussed his recent follow up and outreach to restaurants in Trumbull Center. He encouraged Commission members to stop in to our businesses to let them know what is available and that we care and to leave their business cards. He stressed the Commission's role as ambassadors. Commissioners DeVecchio and Chase need business cards. IT Director William Chin advised that town email situation had changed. Emails no longer forward. Commission members will have to either use the clerk's email or set up a separate private email. They should advise Ms. Bakalar for their business cards.

Ms. Bakalar discussed the upcoming PPP2 program for businesses. Commissioner Chase shared his experience and knowledge related to the upcoming round of funding.

Ms. Bakalar discussed the submissions of a number of grants to support town projects including a brownfields project, a 319 application for Long Hill Green and a Congestion Mitigation grant for the intersection of Daniels Farm Road and Whitney Avenue that could potentially help address signalization and other improvements. She thanked MetroCOG for their partnership.

Community Input:

There was no community input.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:22 p.m. by Commissioner Kaufman and seconded by Commissioner Zmary. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rina Bakalar
ECD Director

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz