

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 2, 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 February 2, 2021.

The Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance

Members Present: Ralph Sather - Chairman, Beryl Kaufman - Vice Chairman, Evelyn Zmary - Secretary, Marshall Marcus, Shelby LeVino, Karen DelVecchio, Ted Chase, Eve McGrath.

Members Absent: Eric Michel

Also Present: Rina Bakalar - Director of Economic and Community Development
Vicki Tesoro – First Selectman
William Chin - Director of Information Technology
Pam Keogh - Make-a-Wish CT
Kim Smith - Make-a-Wish CT

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 January 5, 2021 minutes with a correction of “the intersection of Daniels Farm Road and White Plains Road” was made by Commissioner Zmary and seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. The motion carried unanimously.

Presentation: Make-a-Wish Connecticut

Pam Keogh, Executive Director of Make-a-Wish Connecticut and Kim Smith, Development Director presented on the build out of the new Connecticut headquarters at 59 Commerce Drive in the Trumbull Corporate Park. They discussed the expansion and their hopes of helping to invigorate the Corporate Park by bringing families and events to the site in the future. They invited all ECDC Commissioners to come for a visit by contacting them directly.

Director's Report:

Ms. Bakalar reported that Waste Technologies had signed their lease to take up approximately 20,000SF at 140 Corporate Drive. They convert plastics to fuel. She also noted that a consultant has been selected for the Trumbull Center Corridor study. Freeman Company teamed with VHB in order to perform the scope of work. She noted they received eight proposals and they were all very good and it was a difficult decision. She explained that she coordinates a Long Hill Green team and a Route 111 team to facilitate the improvements to those areas. Those teams meet monthly. She has scheduled a similar team approach for Trumbull Center and the consultants will join that first meeting scheduled for February 8th. The ECDC will hear more about the Trumbull Center Study and will be involved in sharing their perspectives and ideas as the effort gets underway.

Ms. Bakalar noted she is still working on state contracts in order to activate the restaurant initiative. Once the contracts are in place, the program can begin.

Other Business-

Commissioner McGrath brought up a discussion of a database that Chairman Sather had told her the Commission had helped develop years back. Commissioner McGrath noted it was lost somehow. Ms. Bakalar noted that was not true at all. The database she was referring to was an excel spreadsheet and was the base of the contact list still in use. It is regularly updated and has close to 1,000 contacts on it. She noted the 102 business updates issued in 2020 went to that list. Commissioner McGrath questioned why Ms. Bakalar requested the updated restaurant list. Ms. Bakalar noted that she wanted the most updated version that intern Madeline Marsh had since contacts change frequently. Commissioner McGrath chose not to pursue the conversation further.

Commissioner Marcus brought up the adaptive reuse project presented as a pre-application at the Planning and Zoning meeting in January. He stated it was on the agenda for February for a presentation and public comment. He stated he felt the Commission should be taking this up now as a community development concern. Ms. Bakalar noted that she did not feel the project was real yet as they were taking the temperature of the P&Z and had not purchased the property as of yet. She generally does not get involved with projects of this nature until an application has been filed. She also was not sure they were on any February agenda and suggested if anyone had questions they contact Rob Librandi about the project. She also clarified the potential purchasers were not proposing to change the footprint of any of the existing structures. The adaption and construction would be internal to the buildings so there would not be any significant visible change to how the property looked but they were proposing 11 units from the existing 4 units. Commissioner Marcus suggested that people should sign up to receive the agendas directly to stay abreast of proposals. Chairman Sather suggested Ms. Bakalar bring these projects up to the commission early on.

Chairman Sather reiterated that if Commissioners have items they would like on the agenda, they should reach out to Ms. Bakalar and himself. He also noted that if

Commissioners have questions, they should reach out to Ms. Bakalar between meetings.

Community Input:

There was no community input.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:43 p.m. by Commissioner Zmary and seconded by Commissioner Kaufman. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rina Bakalar
ECD Director

cc: Rob Librandi, Doug Wenz