Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2026 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom Videoconference

mjA regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held via Zoom Videoconference on June 2, 2026, at 6:30p.m.

Attendance

Members Present:	Beryl Kaufman, Chairman Justin Scheuble, Vice Chairman Evelyn Zamary, Secretary Fred Petrossi Leyla Fayyaz
Members Absent:	Marshal Marcus Patricia Borghesan
Also Present:	Rina Bakalar, Director of Economic & Community Development Gia Mentillo, Clerk Trumbull Community Television

Chairman Kaufman called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of May 12, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the May 12, 2026, special meeting minutes was made by Vice Chairman Scheuble and seconded by Secretary Zamary. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Kaufman noted the largely positive coverage of Trumbull in the newspapers as of late.

Director's Report

Director Bakalar shared that Gia Mentillo will be moving to a new position in the Town of Trumbull Finance Department and will no longer be clerking for the ECDC. Ms. Mentillo expressed gratitude for her time with the ECD Department and Commission. The Director informed that the Town Council and Board of Finance voiced support for a new full time ECD staff position and the Town will be working to fill that role. Currently the ECD administrative assistant splits their time with the P&Z office.

Business Update:

Director Bakalar shared that Unilever will be leaving their Trumbull location and moving to a smaller space in New Haven. She noted that Unilever has significantly reduced their employment numbers and physical footprint in Trumbull over the years, going from approximately 1,000 employees in three buildings to about 300 employees in one building. The Director noted the Town spoke with the company in depth last year in an effort to retain them in Trumbull. They will remain in Trumbull for roughly three years (to 2029) as their new space is being built. Per Vice Chairman Scheuble's inquiry, Director Bakalar clarified that the $10 million incentive Unilever is receiving from the state in relation to the new space is not a tax incentive, rather it is her understanding they've received a forgivable loan.

Director Bakalar noted recent press coverage regarding data centers and confusion it has caused amongst the community. Trumbull has one existing data center at 80 Merritt Blvd. which has received incentives through a state program for infrastructure improvements to the center, resulting in a $200 million investment over the next five years. The Director stated that there are no new data centers coming to Trumbull and the upgrades being made to the existing center are largely technological in nature with minor physical changes proposed. Existing utility infrastructure is adequate to support these upgrades. The Director noted that though there may be other technology centers in Trumbull this location is the only true data center (in terms of what is being discussed in the press) and has existed for some time.

Event Update:

Director Bakalar shared that the ECD Department hosted the Fairfield County Commercial Broker Network (FCCBN) meeting at Trumbull Town Hall on Friday, May 29th for which there was good attendance and positive feedback. The Town utilized this opportunity to highlight the Crossing at the Pequonnock, the 88,000 sq. ft. mixed use development project on the Trumbull / Monroe town line. The Director and First Selectman Tesoro were joined by Monroe First Selectman Rooney and ECD Director William Holsworth as well as the project developers who presented their plans. The developers are looking to start leasing the available commercial space through letters of intent in the near term. The Director noted that the project was well received by attendees, and there was tremendous feedback regarding the level of collaboration between Trumbull and Monroe which the FCCBN felt to be a true success story and an excellent example for other communities.

Planning Update:

Director Bakalar informed that the proposed 17,000 sq. ft. mixed use project at 855 & 851 White Plains Road is moving through the approval process and will going to the PZC in the coming months. This proposal is for a two-story building with 8,500 sq. ft. of commercial space on the first floor and 8,500 sq. ft. of one-bedroom apartments on the second floor. The Director noted that the proposal is very similar to the Franco Gianni building at 10 Broadway. She felt it to be scaled appropriately for the location, noting that it is not overly dense and would not negatively impact the school system.

Director Bakalar stated that the wetlands appeal for the project at 1 Trefoil Drive was cleared in court last week which is an important step forward for the project, though the process has not yet fully played out. There is an approval on the site for a commercial development (just under 40,000 sq. ft.) for a grocer. Per Secretary Zamary's inquiry, the Director confirmed that the existing building on site will be removed. The Commission noted that there is significant construction happening on Trefoil Drive as the new Henkel building is currently being built at 9 Trefoil Drive.

Business Update:

The Director informed that a new business will be going into the former Liv's Gifts space at 5665 Main Street. The new tenant, who is a Trumbull resident, has signed a lease, and the business is expected to open in July. This will be a specialty shop and gift store concept. More details will be forthcoming. Vice Chairman Scheuble shared that he spoke with the property owner who is very excited about this new tenant. Director Bakalar stated that the new Pilates studio, owned by Trumbull residents, will be opening at 5893 Main Street in the coming months. She expressed intent to pitch the story of two locally owned businesses opening on Main Street to the press. The ECD Department will work to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for both businesses once they open.

There will be a ribbon cutting and grand opening ceremony for OGGI Gelato at 51 Monroe Turnpike on Saturday, June 13th at 5:00-9:000p.m.

Trumbull Mall Update:

Director Bakalar noted that the Town is limited on what it can share with the public at this time as the sale of the Trumbull Mall is a highly confidential process. She reminded that there has been significant interest in the property, with over 100 formal inquiries having been submitted to date. She stated that the process is moving along very well and swiftly considering typical development timelines. She is confident that the type of group that will purchase the property will be what the Town is looking for. The Director acknowledged that there will be ups and downs during this time of transition with some businesses leaving the mall and new ones coming in, voicing understanding for public concerns surrounding this. She shared that all parties involved have recognized that the strong vision for this property and work that has been done to position it from the planning, zoning, and brokerage perspective have played a crucial role in garnering interest for the site. More information will be shared when appropriate.

BRBC Update

Commissioner Petrossi shared that the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Coffee & Connections event at Plasko's Farm on Wednesday, June 3rd at 4:30-5:30p.m. and encouraged commissioners to attend. The BRBC is also hosting their annual Meeting & Leadership Celebration at the University of Bridgeport on June 26th to celebrate the leadership class of 2026. Those who are interested can learn more and register on the BRBC website. He asked that the Commission share this information with their networks.

Opportunity for Community Input

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:12p.m. by Commissioner Petrossi and seconded by Commissioner Fayyaz. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gia Mentillo, ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi