

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 6, 2022 – 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 September 6, 2022.

Attendance

Members Present: Karen DelVecchio (Vice Chairman)
Evelyn Zamary (Secretary)
Marshall Marcus
Shelby LeVino
Ralph Sather
Fred Petrossi
Massimo Mallozi

Members Absent: Beryl Kaufman (Chairman)

Also Present: Rina Bakalar – Director of Economic & Community Development
William Chin – Director of Information Technology
Gia Mentillo – Economic & Community Development Clerk

Vice Chairman DelVecchio called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of August 2, 2022 Minutes

A motion to approve the August 2, 2022 minutes was made by Commissioner Zamary and seconded by Commissioner Sather. The motion carried unanimously. *Commissioners LeVino and Mallozi abstained as they were not present for the August 2nd meeting.*

Chairman’s Report

Vice Chairman DelVecchio noted the excellent coverage of Trumbull in the newspaper as of late, thanking Amanda Cuda for her work. She then introduced Massimo Mallozi as the newest member of the Economic and Community Development Commission (ECDC). Commissioner Mallozi introduced himself, providing a brief summary of his background.

Director’s Report

Business Update:

Director Bakalar informed that her department is working in conjunction with town volunteers to organize the 2022 Trumbull Restaurant Week. She provided a progress update on the planning efforts, including that 14 restaurants have agreed to participate thus far.

Signage has gone up for Patrick Fahy's new restaurant, Emma's, located in Trumbull Center. Fryborg is making significant progress on their renovations. Both businesses are hoping to open in Fall of this year.

Community Development Update:

The Director encouraged commissioners to read Amanda Cuda's recent article on the sustainability efforts happening in the Long Hill Green area.

48 Monroe Turnpike was previously approved for a 55+ housing and senior services development. However, the decision to approve the development is currently being appealed, and a final decision has yet to be made.

6 Cambridge Drive will be going to foreclosure auction on September 17th at noon. However, the current owner can avoid foreclosure prior to the auction by paying outstanding fees.

Site work has begun on the 100,000 square foot storage facility on Quarry Road. The Director noted she would be reaching out for a timeline on the work being done.

The Director will be giving a quarterly town update at William Raveis on September 7th.

There are currently two (2) mixed used development proposals going through various planning processes. The property owners of 7190 Main Street are going to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for a height variance of two (2) feet to allow the construction of a building that will transect the Monroe town line. There is also a text amendment being proposed for Trumbull Center to allow mixed use development in the BC Zone. The Director encouraged commissioners to attend those meetings. Vice Chairman DeVeccio reminded commissioners to sign up for Town alerts through the Town website to stay informed on meeting agendas.

The traffic light planned for the Fitness Edge plaza has been approved and the contractor is beginning to prep the area. The community will be notified as-needed as work increases. Town staff have also met with business owners in the area to discuss prospective impact to the area at various stages of construction.

The Town is waiting for final approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to go out to bid on the traffic light and crosswalks planned for the Long Hill Green area. The Director informed that she will receive a more comprehensive update on September 12th.

Planning Update:

The Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a consultant team to conduct the Westfield Mall Area market feasibility and land use study was released to the public and is due back on September 23rd. The Director informed that the First Selectmen will establish a team of roughly 10 people to

review the proposals that are submitted for this project. She asked that commissioners review the RFQ document and be prepared to share any input they may have.

Town staff has begun work on the Town's Five Year Capital Plan. The Director stated she plans to ask for funding for the 2024 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) as that document has to be updated by 2024 and doing so can be lengthy process.

A recently enacted state statute mandates that all towns in CT put forth an affordable housing plan by June of 2022. The Town of Trumbull has requested a one year extension to allow for adequate time to update the existing affordable housing procedures.

Grant Update:

Director Bakalar is working on a CT Community Challenge Grant which is due in October. She stated the grant provides an excellent opportunity to leverage public dollars for improvements in town where there is planned capital investment.

An application was submitted to the State Department of Economic and Community Development on August 15th seeking \$500,000 for the Trumbull Veterans and First Responder Center (TVFRC) through the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP).

There is an opportunity available for state funding of Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure through the recent Volkswagen Settlement. Though the town would like to apply for funding to support the installation of EV charging stations at various municipally owned properties, such properties must first be assessed to determine whether there are existing utilities with the capacity to support such infrastructure.

The Economic and Community Development Department has submitted an application regarding the Town's Local Meals and Main Street Dollars initiatives to the CT Conference of Municipalities (CCM) for a Community Excellence Award.

Event Update:

The annual Business Appreciation Breakfast will be held in early November. Director Bakalar asked that commissioners for suggestions on keynote speakers and topics for the event. Vice Chairman DelVecchio recommended utilizing a commercial realtor as a keynote speaker.

The Director stated she is looking to conduct a cyber-security forum for local business in the coming year, noting she is hoping to collaborate with Kyber Security staff in town. She asked for input and/or involvement from any interested commissioners with relevant backgrounds.

Commissioner Sather asked if there was any response from Patrick Madden at the Westfield Trumbull Mall regarding the letter sent to him by the Commission. Director Bakalar informed that the response letter was disseminated to the Commission for review. She added that Mr. Madden has been invited to attend the October 11th ECDC meeting. Commissioner Sather asked whether blight action was continuing. The Director stated it has been halted as there is evidence of the owners working to remediate the existing issues, but further blight action will take place if

needed. Commissioner Sather asked that commissioners keep an eye on the property to ensure progress continues to be made.

Sustainable Trumbull Team Update

Commissioner Sather provided an update on efforts being made by the Sustainable Trumbull Team. There will be a coastal clean up at Old Mine Park on September 17th for which more information can be found on the Team's Facebook page. The group is working to add glass recycling to the Town transfer station. An effort has been launched to reduce plastic use at restaurants. The first meeting of the Sustainable Youth Group was held on August 22nd. The Team has partnered with town staff to establish a community garden. There is also a new "1,000 Trees for Trumbull" initiative that has been partially funded by Aquarion.

Commissioner Sather asked that a member of the Team be allowed to present findings from a recent community survey on sustainability perspectives to the Commission during their October 11th meeting.

Opportunity for Community Input

There was no comment made by the public.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:07p.m. by Commissioner Zamary and seconded by Commissioner LeVino. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi