

Town of Trumbull
Economic and Community Development Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023 – 6:30p.m.
***Please note meeting time change**
Trumbull Town Hall Long Hill Conference Room

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Economic & Community Development Commission of the Town of Trumbull was held in the Trumbull Town Hall Long Hill Conference Room on October 3, 2023.

Attendance

Members Present: Evelyn Zamary (Secretary)
Marshall Marcus
Fred Petrossi
Massimo Mallozzi
Terrence Griffiths

Members Absent: Beryl Kaufman (Chairman)
Leyla Fayyaz
Ralph Sather

Also Present: Rina Bakalar – Director of Economic & Community Development
Gia Mentillo – Economic & Community Development Clerk
Trumbull Community Television

In the Chairman's absence, Secretary Zamary called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of September 6, 2023 Minutes

A motion to approve the September 6, 2023 minutes was made by Commissioner Marcus and seconded by Commissioner Mallozzi. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

Secretary Zamary informed that the ribbon cutting for Paul's Haircutters went well and noted that several more ribbon cutting events are scheduled for the near future.

Director's Report

Business Update:

There was a ribbon cutting event held for Wet Paws at 4244 Madison Avenue on October 1st. The Madison Village plaza now houses four female owned businesses.

Ribbon cutting events are scheduled for the following businesses throughout October:

- 4 Core Financial (35 Nutmeg Drive): Friday, October 6th, 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m.
- T-Mobile (5065 Main Street): Wednesday, October 11th, 11:00a.m.-3:00p.m.
- 123 Pronto (123 Monroe Tpke.): Thursday, October 19th, 10:00a.m.-12:00p.m.
- Transpak (120 Corporate Drive): Friday, October 27th, 11:00a.m.-12:30p.m.

The Director asked that Commissioners share information on upcoming ribbon cutting events with their networks and aim to attend said events.

A new dance academy recently opened at Hawley Lane Mall, and TJ's Discount Wine and Liquor has expanded its existing space in the mall.

Cooperative Educational Services purchased the building at 40 Oakview Drive last year. It is under construction and will be converted into a school for special needs individuals.

6 Cambridge Drive has been listed for sale.

Planning Update:

Both the September 13th community meeting on Long Hill Green improvements and the September 28th community meeting regarding the Trumbull Mall Area Market Feasibility and Land Use Study went well. Recordings of both meetings can be found on the Trumbull Community Television website. Community members were particularly engaged during the September 28th meeting and many offered great ideas while voicing interest in improving the Trumbull Mall area. Commissioner Mallozzi stated that Stantec consultants did well in explaining the complexities of the area to the community and how those impact what can and cannot be done in the area. The next community meeting for the study will likely be in December.

Town Planner Rob Librandi is lead staff for the update of the Trumbull Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) which is mandated every 10 years. Consultants hired to help with this task will begin meeting with key stakeholders in November, and have already begun connecting with Stantec regarding their findings from the Mall Area Market Feasibility and Land Use Study. All land use studies undertaken in the past 10 years will be factored into the new POCD.

Events

There are 22 restaurants participating in 2023 Trumbull Restaurant Week (October 13-20). The Director asked that the Commission help to spread the word about the event and thanked Trumbull Chamber of Commerce for their help disseminating lawn signs. Commissioner Marcus offered to put signs on his lawn. A hat and apron will be put on the Jonathan Trumbull statue early next week (10/9/13), but, unfortunately, there is no large fork and knife for display this year. Staff will work to create a write-up for 2024 Trumbull Restaurant Week that outlines the various promotional efforts around the event in order to exemplify the wide reaching marketing benefits for participants.

There are already 172 RSVPs to the Annual Business Appreciation Breakfast scheduled for October 27th. Dan Wantrobski, of Janney Montgomery Scott LLC, is this year's keynote speaker.

The Director thanked Finance Director Maria Pires for connecting her with Mr. Wantrobski. Commissioners were encouraged to attend the event and asked to help with setup.

Grant Update:

The Town is applying through US Department of Energy (DOE) for a fellow to help with energy conservation and sustainability initiatives. The individual would work under Director of Public Works George Estrada for up to 18 months, and their salary would be fully funded through DOE.

Other:

Commissioner Marcus asked that a member of Bridgeport Transit provide a report outlining recent or planned changes to the GBT system. He also informed that GBT handicap vans are available to bring individuals in need to doctor appointments upon request, noting that regularly scheduled services will not go past certain geographic boundaries.

The next ECDC meeting is scheduled for November 14th at 6:30p.m.

The Annual Boards and Commissions dinner is scheduled for October 26th, and RSVPs can be made to Alicia Altobelli.

Sustainable Trumbull Update

There was no Sustainable Trumbull update.

BRBC Update

Commissioner Petrossi commended Trumbull for their efforts organizing great ribbon cutting events and voiced excitement for Trumbull Restaurant Week.

Opportunity for Community Input

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

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:07p.m. by Commissioner Marcus and seconded by Commissioner Petrossi. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gia Mentillo
ECDC Clerk

Cc: Rob Librandi