



## **Economic Development Commission**

### **MINUTES**

September 19, 2023

Newtown Municipal Center  
Shared Meeting Room 3  
3 Primrose St

**Present:** Nick Roussas, Steve Matiatos, Fran Pennarola, Tracey Pertoso, Valerie Fallon, Jeffrey Robinson

**Absent:** Barbara Snyder, Bruce Walczak

**Also Present:** Kim Chiappetta – Economic & Community Dev & Fairfield Hills Coordinator (clerk)

### **Public Attendance:**

None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

### **Public Participation:**

None.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Fran Pennarola made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from August 15, 2023. Steve Matiatos seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

### **Economic and Community Development – Staff Update**

#### **Ribbon Cuttings:**

Kim told the Commission that she, Bruce and Jeffrey attended the ribbon cutting for Blue Compass RV, formerly named RV One Superstores. Kim explained that she learned the new name was simply rebranding and the company had not changed hands.

Kim invited the Commission to the Golden Aesthetics spa grand opening on Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. Golden Aesthetics offers luxury and health services such as IV drip therapy, dermaplaning and lymphatic drainage.

She then told the group that World Champion Taekwondo will be celebrating its 1 year anniversary on Saturday, October 14<sup>th</sup> from 2 – 4 p.m. The owner, Master Henry, expressed that she chose Newtown for her business because she feels it's a beautiful and friendly town. All Commission members are invite to join the event.



**Projects:**

**7 Glen Rd** – Kim told everyone that progress has slowed a bit, and it's expected that the contractor will be able to return to the site in early October to complete the work. She reminded the Commission that this project is being funded by a STEAP grant.

**28 Glen Rd** – Kim reminded the group that the 28 Glen Rd project is to remediate and demo buildings on a town owned property. Once the bid package is finalized, the request for bid can begin.

**2023 Restaurant Week** – Kim informed the group that the 2023 Newtown – Sandy Hook Restaurant week is scheduled for Monday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> through Sunday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. She explained that she may not be able to visit every restaurant in town as she and Christal had done in years past. Instead Kim may reach out to other groups to ask that they share that the town is looking for restaurant specials.

**Grants:**

**2018 EDA** – The EDA grant that funded the replacement of the sanitary sewers on the Fairfield Hills campus is still pending a final Special Award Condition approval before the final reports can be submitted. The next step is for the town to submit a grant extension.

**2023 Neglected Cemetery** – Work on the Taunton Cemetery is expected to begin in October.

**2021 Community Funding Project** – Kim told members that she will be submitting an application that will finalize the grant award to the town.

**Fairfield Hills Campus interests:**

Kim informed the commission that she is in discussions with two people who are interested in opening businesses on the campus. She hopes to have something to share with the Commission in the near future.

**Website:**

Kim told members that the Newtown.org website is live, but still requires further updates before using it in marketing.

**Chairman & Vice Chairman Report/Comments**

The Chair announced that the Board of Selectman appointed David Cervero as the replacement for Peter McLoughlin in their September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Due to the short notice, David was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Jeffrey told the group that David is in real estate as well as hospitality and other diverse businesses.



Jeffrey then told members that Steve Matiatos will not be re-upping when his term ends in January. Steve added that his work travel has increased so he has been unable to attend meetings, and expressed he felt the group needed a member who is able to be more committed to the Commission. Jeffrey gave his appreciation of Steve's input during his time on the Commission.

He also announced that someone has accepted the new Director of Economic Development position and will be starting in October.

Jeffrey concluded that there are no updates on the 6 Commerce property.

**Strategic Plan for Economic Development:**

Jeffrey informed members that he, Barbara and Kim met with Dan to review the draft Strategic Plan. Dan's only comment was that Objective B needed rewording for clarity. The next steps are to review the document with the Board of Selectmen in either their October 2<sup>nd</sup> or October 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Once approved, it will move on to the Legislative Council.

Fran motioned to amend Objective B of the "Major Objectives and Strategies of the Plan" of the Strategic Plan as adopted in the last meeting as read aloud by the clerk. ("Assist new businesses and other commercial endeavors where appropriate and consistent with enabling regulations to develop private tracts of land and buildings.") Tracey seconded the motion. All in favor.

**Member Comments, Discussion, and Questions**

**Member Project(s) Update:**

None.

**Business additions resident feedback:**

None.

**Vacant commercial space and Business Zones Observations:**

Tracey told the group that Boost Cycle is moving to Sand Hill Plaza and she expressed that she was happy to see expansion there. Members agreed. She also noted that Sweet Mango still has windows covered in their Plaza South location, and she hopes that they will re-open soon. Nick reminded the group that Nostrano changed hands. Members discussed the closure of Patty's Pantry and that the property is listed for sale. Valerie told members that an antiques store is moving next to Queen Street Gifts.

**Other Commissions Observations:**

None.

Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT  
[www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org)



**Adjournment:**

Jeffrey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Fran made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 p.m. and was seconded by Nick. All members in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk*