



Economic Development Commission

MINUTES

August 15, 2023

Newtown Municipal Center
Shared Meeting Room 3
3 Primrose St

Present: Nick Roussas, Steve Matiatos, Fran Pennarola, Tracey Pertoso, Bruce Walczak, Valerie Fallon, Jeffrey Robinson, Barbara Snyder

Absent: Peter McLoughlin

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

Public Attendance:

None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Public Participation:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Chair Jeffrey Robinson noted that the minutes stated the Chairman asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session, but should have stated it was the Vice Chair as he was not at the meeting.

Fran Pennarola made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from July 18, 2023 with the noted correction. Bruce Walczak seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Chairman & Vice Chairman Report/Comments

New Website:

Vice Chair Snyder asked that Kim Chiappetta provide an update on the website project. Kim informed the group that she is expecting the website to go-live any day now. She also told them about an error that was encountered during transition prep that requires her to re-upload and re-link all of the business logos. She added that if she is unable to complete this task in time for go-live, the businesses will be displayed with the first letter of their business name in place of their logo. She will continue updates after go-live until all are completed. Kim thanked Barbara for all of her help with the project, and for continuing conversations when Kim was busy with other projects.



Strategic Plan for Economic Development:

Jeffrey asked if anyone saw any issues with the last draft of the Strategic Plan. The group all agreed that they did not find any issues. Jeffrey recommended that before submitting the plan through the town's approval process, it be submitted to the First Selectman for review. Jeffrey then asked for a motion to approve the Strategic Plan.

Fran moved to submit the final draft of the Strategic Plan to the First Selectman for review and comment. Barbara seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

The commission then discussed how a consultant will be hired to draft the Plan of Conservation and Development and how the Strategic Plan will be a part of the document.

Fairfield Hills Campus Parking:

Bruce Walczak asked about the new planned parking on the Fairfield Hill campus. Kim explained that the planned area is the grass area at the entrance of the campus where the farmer's market is held. She further explained that permeable pavers will be installed so the area can serve as a flexible space for events or parking.

Fairfield Hills Mixed Use:

The conversation on campus parking transitioned to the Fairfield Hills mixed use project. Jeffrey updated the group that the project is still pending national historic designation and there has been no update.

Adjournment:

Jeffrey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Fran Pennarola made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. and was seconded by Valerie Fallon. All members in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk*