



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority
MEETING MINUTES

**The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Meeting on March 28, 2022
in Council Chambers at the Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470**

These minutes are subject to the approval of the FHA at their next meeting.

Present: Ross Carley, Jim Landy, Michael Holmes, Brook Clark, Andrew Philbin, Renata Adler, Terry Sagedy

Absent: Melissa Beylouni

Public Attendance: none

Also Present: Christal Preszler – Deputy Director of Economic and Community Development, Kim Chiappetta (clerk)

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

Public Participation: none

Ross began by thanking Authority members for their time spent attending meetings.

Acceptance of Minutes:

Chairman Ross Carley ask for a motion to add the November 29, 2021, minutes to the agenda under Acceptance of Minutes. Jim Landy entertained. Renata Adler seconded and all were in favor.

Ross asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the meetings held on November 29, 2021. Jim Landy entertained and Andrew Philbin seconded and all were in favor.

Ross then asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on March 7, 2022. Terry Sagedy entertained. Mike Holmes seconded and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Ross Carley began by telling members that he hoped everyone had the opportunity to read the minutes from the last meeting and asked if there were any questions.

Andrew asked what was meant by “go-away” in the March 7th meeting minutes. Kim clarified that this was in reference to grants, leasing fees and CAM charges. Christal added that there is another grant of \$480,000 that would support the project as well.

Pocket Park:

Ross asked for a status update on the proposed pocket park. Christal said the Conservation Commission contacted her asking that native plantings be used for the project. Brook informed the group that she has revised the plan to have native plantings and noted that native plantings are not always resilient but understands policies must be followed. Brook mentioned other towns have allowed 70% native plantings.

Campus Replacement Plantings:

Ross asked about plantings on the campus. Christal said that at this time she recommends replacing damaged pines along Wasserman Way. The group discussed the type of tree and if they are native to the area. If they are not native to the area, it may be necessary to replace them with a different type of pine. Christal recommended beginning with a budget of \$10,000. Ross asked if the town would have to put the project out to bid. Christal said yes, per purchasing policies they will have to obtain three bids. Ross asked Christal if the town needs assistance from the Authority. Christal welcomed recommendations. Members discussed ongoing maintenance and the opportunity to incorporate the maintenance with the annual streetscape maintenance contract. Christal recommended hiring the same business to plant and maintain so there may be some type of warranty of the trees. Ross asked for a motion to approve \$10,000 for the replacement of trees with the opportunity to request more money if needed. Mike asked for the current budget balance. Christal is pending a response from Finance. Brook asked if the town were to take down six trees, would they be replaced with six trees. Christal said yes. Brook asked if removal was included in the \$10,000. Christal replied that the town would need to hire someone to do stump grinding. In the past, the town has taken down trees so she would have to see if this is an option. Jim asked if there is an opportunity to replace the current trees with something less expensive and sturdier. Christal said something similar should be installed along the existing tree row. The group discussed the size of the trees that would be planted and the time required for them to blend into the tree row. Christal noted spring being a good time for planting and then more planting could be done in the fall. The group discussed rough estimated costs and the use of Treegator bags to keep the trees watered.

Ross asked for a motion for the allotment of \$10,000 for replacement of trees and stump grinding. Andrew entertained. Jim seconded. All in favor.

Member Updates:

Ross asked if there was anything else anyone wanted to discuss. Renata asked when the FHA would know about the mixed-use project. Christal replied that she is waiting to hear from the developer on the proposed application and timing.

Staff Update:

Sewer Main Replacement project:

Ross asked for an update on the sewer main replacement project. Kim updated the group that the EDA construction sign has been installed as per grant requirements. Some work began this past Saturday near the 2nd Governor's Horse Guard.

Campus Events:

Kim updated members that events begin on Thursday, May 5th with the annual National Day of Prayer. Many other favorite events will be back including Strutt Your Mutt, Catherine's Butterfly Party, Rooster Run, the REACH Car Show, and the Newtown Arts Festival. The Race for Catherine – 5K for Kindness will be holding its second year.

Ross expressed his concerns with large events held by campus tenants and the potential to create parking issues. He explained he is not sure what could be done proactively to ensure there are none. People who holding large events should reserve the high school or middle school for parking and have a shuttle bus available. Ross continued to explain that the campus may benefit from a parking garage. Terry asked what type of events are being held. Ross explained that the NYA is holding tournaments that bring in large groups that taking up the parking on most of the campus. Terry informed the group that this year is the 10th anniversary of the Arts Festival. In the first few years of the event, the Arts Festival reserved parking at the schools and arranged busing to and from the event. Jim asked about the impact the construction will have on the campus. Kim explained that the construction company will be securing areas outside of work hours. Christal added that

there is an impact to parking on the campus as the construction company is storing project supplies at the back of Shelton Hall. The group discussed concerns with construction materials taking up valuable parking spaces. Kim explained that the construction company is working with the Director of Public Works regarding on-site materials storage.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Renata Adler motioned to adjourn, Andrew Philbin seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk.

A recording of the meeting is available by contacting Kimberly.Chiappetta@newtown-ct.gov.