



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority
MINUTES

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Meeting on July 24, 2017 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, Roger Cyr, Terry Sagedy,

Absent: Andrew Willie, Phil Clark, Renata Adler, Jim Bernardi

Public Participation:

Also Present: Christal Preszler, Kim Chiappetta (clerk), Brook Clark

Given there were not enough members present to call a meeting, Mr. Carley opened a group discussion at 7:03pm.

Public Participation:

Minutes:

No action was able to be taken.

Chairman's Report:

Ross Carley began the meeting by introducing Brook Clark, who is a licensed landscape architect applying for the Authority seat vacated by Tom Connors. Brook Clark informed Authority members that she works in commercial and high-end home landscape design. She is partnered out of firm in Wilton where she is now more involved in obtaining clients. Brook was born and raised in Newtown by the flagpole, and is 4th generation in town. She grew up knowing Fairfield Hills and now spends time on the campus with her own family. Ross asked Brook what drew her to the Fairfield Hills campus. She replied that as a landscape architect she noticed the changes such as the fruit trail and has studied the Master Plan. She finds interest in the current use of the campus and the future possibilities. Ross offered to take Brook on a tour of the campus and inform her of plans for the campus such as the Community and Senior Center location and the interests in Stratford Hall. Ross expressed his concerns with the campus losing its identify and becoming just another park.

Brook confirmed for Terry that she is unaffiliated. Roger informed members that he read her resume and she seemed to be a really good fit. Christal mentioned the value Brook's input would provide as a landscape architect and Ross added that he would like guidance for projects such as Tammy's garden. Ross expressed that the area will develop rapidly once the community center is built, and also informed Brook of revitalizing the duplexes. The group then discussed the possible need for more sub-committees and explained the purpose of the Planning Advisory Sub-committee.

Authority members also informed Brook of the 2018 Master Plan review and possible amendment, and the desire to reinstate a campus budget.

Staff Update:**a) Campus Projects – Christal:****Exercise Stations:**

Christal informed the group that an AARP grant application has been submitted by Friends of Newtown Seniors (FONS). Christal explained the grant's short-timeline and the need to keep the process going. FONS would like to install 15 exercise stations on the Fairfield Hills campus at an estimated cost of \$98,000. She further explained that there was no specific amount indicated in the AARP grant application, so it is not definite that FONS will be able to purchase all 15 stations. Ross expressed concerns with where these exercise stations would be located and asked for a map of where they are expected to be installed. The group discussed aspects of the project and Ross requested that the project be presented to the FHA in their next meeting. Christal explained that Parks and Rec was involved in the process early on and that they will be invited to present to the FHA.

b) Campus interest update – Christal:**Campus Proposals:**

Christal informed everyone that she will be organizing a meeting for the EDC and the FHA to discuss coordination regarding campus proposals. Each group adds value in their different perspectives.

Streetscape:

The Streetscape project is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.

Canaan basement:

Removal of the Canaan basement is expected to be completed by August 11th.

c) Upcoming Events – Kim:

The details for both the REACH Car Show and the Arts Festival are being finalized.

A meeting is scheduled tomorrow (7/25) to begin discussions on the feasibility of having a Fall Carnival on campus which will be sponsored by Parks & Rec.

d) Drones & Remote Airplanes on campus – Kim:

Kim informed members that there has been some interest in flying remote control drones and airplanes on the campus. Since this is a new concept for the campus, a meeting has been scheduled with the Director of Parks & Rec – Amy Mangold, the FHA Chairman – Ross Carley, Christal and myself to discuss further.

Business:

Terry requested that the FHA Planning Advisory Sub-committee meetings be changed to either Wednesdays or Thursdays to ensure as co-chair he is able to attend.

Adjournment: The meeting was informally adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk.*