



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Special Meeting on January 30, 2023
The Meeting Room at the Newtown Community Center, 8 Simpson Street, Newtown CT 06470

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

Present: Ross Carley, Michael Holmes, Andrew Philbin, Jim Landy, Brook Clark, Melissa Beylouni, Renata Adler

Absent: Terry Sagedy

Public Attendance: Wes Thompson

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Public Participation:

None

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Ross Carley asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on October 24, 2022. Mike Holmes entertained. Andrew Philbin seconded and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report

None.

New Business

Additional Information related to a Letter of intent for Fairfield Hills Campus Building:

Chairman Carley asked the Authority for their comments on the letter received from Everwonder Children's Museum. Renata Adler began the conversation by noting that the letter answered no substantive questions. Jim Landy told members that in his experience working with his father who was President of the *National Charities Information Bureau*, he has learned that the charity must have filed their financials with the State of Connecticut, and questioned why they did not share their 2021 financials. Ross informed members that the First Selectman considers the building available again. Christal added that the letter didn't close the door, but didn't provide what was asked of them. Melissa asked if there may be an opportunity for Everwonder to go into the proposed mixed use on the campus. Ross expressed his concerns with Everwonder Museum's estimated annual number of attendees and parking on the campus. Other members agreed. The Authority discussed their disappointment to the responses in social media, and the fact that no one reached out to the FHA for the facts. Brook noted that this is the second time Everwonder has approached the town with interest in a campus building. She asked if there could be required information that must be provided when a business contacts the town with interest in the campus.

Member Updates:

Mike asked about tree work he has noticed on the campus. Kim explained that a map of trees that need to be removed, and trees that require some maintenance was submitted to Public Works back in the fall who is

performing the necessary work when time permits. In addition, Parks & Rec has removed some trees located in the green between the NYA and Municipal Center. Christal added that all trees will be replaced with something native.

Staff Update:

Christal told the Authority that the first gathering space has been installed, and the department would like to see more installed throughout the campus. Authority member, Brook Clark, designed the gathering space and it was installed with grants from the *Jeniam Foundation* and *Newtown Board of Realtors*. A ribbon cutting is planned for May. Brook recommended that donation levels be considered in the design of gathering spaces.

Kim told the group that she is already receiving event applications for the 2023 season.

Christal reminded the group of the contaminants removed from soil around campus buildings many years ago. As part of the process to close out reporting associated with this project, DEEP is requiring that monitoring wells be installed in various locations throughout the campus. These wells will be used to test the ground water to ensure it does not contain contaminants over established safety level. Testing will be completed after 3 – 4 consecutive quarters of passing test results, after which point the project will be completed.

Ross returned the conversation to campus gathering spaces, and said he would like there to be a gardening master plan for the campus. The group discussed the process to hire a landscape architect for the design.

Ross thanked members for attending.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Renata motioned to adjourn, Mike seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk.

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