

**Business Advisory Committee  
Regular Meeting, June 24, 2019  
Newtown Municipal Center, Council Chamber  
3 Primrose Street, Newtown**

***MINUTES ARE NOT FINALIZED UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BUSINESS ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE***

**Present:** Chris Hottois, Flint Ridge Development, Dan Sorrentino, Newtown Hardware, Bruce Walczak, Relocation Consultants.

**Unable to Attend:** Don Droppo, Jr., Curtis Packaging, Michele Hanson, Farmhouse Restaurant; Adam Richichi, Dental Associates; Sue Shortt, Shortt's Farm & Garde, Erica Sullivan, Castle Hill Chocolate, Carrie Swan, Black Swan Hearth & Gift Shop

**Also Present:** First Selectman Daniel Rosenthal, Kimberly Chiapetta, Wes Thompson, Economic Development Commission and Helen Brickfield, Chamber of Commerce.

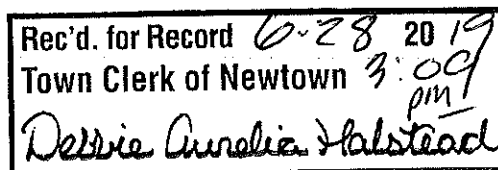
First Selectman Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 1:34p.m.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** No quorum; no action.

**Fairfield County Commercial Brokers Meeting Update:** Kim Chiapetta presented a clip from the video that was shown at the commercial brokers meeting hosted by the town in April, which highlighted the six business districts and included drone footage. Ms. Chiapetta thanked Photo & Video Artworks for donated pictures. The meeting was very well attended. First Selectman Rosenthal welcomed the group and discussed the town. A lot of good questions were raised. The First Selectman conveyed there is a willingness to work with people interested in Newtown. Christal Preszler attends the county meetings in other towns to inform them of Newtown. A win for Danbury is a win for Newtown because of cottage industries.

**Chamber of Commerce Report:** Helen Brickfield is back with the Chamber of Commerce. Newtown Day is July 27 and markets the town although there will be some out of town businesses. Mr. Thompson said there are many different types of events that take place at Fairfield Hills and draw people. 7,000 people attended the CVH Foundation Catherine's Butterfly party. The library had a CT jobs program bus behind the Edmond Town Hall. The more events that are held the more people look for events in town; frequency is important. Dan Sorrentino said that the Church Hill project was worth it. First Selectman Rosenthal said the sidewalks and the plaza look nice. It is a positive for Town. The idea of a First Night was discussed. First Night is very successful and showcases merchants. First Selectman Rosenthal noted the Farmers Market has been revamped, with new vendors and is now located at the Woodbury Hall property. Mr. Thompson said that at Fairfield Hills becomes more populated the Farmers Market will grow.

**Ideas/Suggestions:** Dan Sorrentino asked about the Georgia Pacific property. First Selectman Rosenthal stated there has been interest in the property. Bruce Walczak said it is difficult to get a sense of how much business there is in Newtown. First Selectman Rosenthal said that although there are some vacancies there are a lot of interesting activities and businesses in town. First Selectman Rosenthal attend the CT Main Street Awards. Chris Hottois, Flint Ridge Development received an award. Flint Ridge has



invested in properties in Town and gone above and beyond in the restoration effort. First Selectman Rosenthal reported the plastic bag ban was passed by the Legislative Council. The town ban won't go into effect until mid-October but the state ban goes into effect on August 1, which means there will be a 10 cent charge for plastic bags. In mid-October the plastic will be banned and merchants will have to charge 10 cents for a paper bag. First Selectman Rosenthal preferred that the ban be done at the state level. The Town does not have staff to enforce the ban. The idea of banning plastic isn't an issue, mandating merchants to charge customers, rather than making it optional, is the issue. First Selectman Rosenthal wanted to work with the business community. Newtown Hardware never used plastic bags, only paper. There were questions relative to take out food and how it would be packaged, farmers markets, etc. Helen Brickfield feels that consumer behavior will change, as it has with water bottles.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting is August 26, 2019.

Adjournment: Having no further business report of Business Advisory Committee adjourned their meeting at 2:35p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Susan Marcinek*, Clerk pro-tem