



Economic Development Commission

MINUTES

October 18, 2022

Newtown Municipal Center
Shared Meeting Room 3
3 Primrose St

Present: Jeffrey Robinson, Fran Pennarola, Barbara Snyder

Absent: Steve Matiatos, Bruce Walczak, Nick Roussas, Tracey Pertoso, Valerie Fallon, Peter McLoughlin

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

Public Attendance:

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m.

Public Participation:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Fran Pennarola made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 20, 2022. Jeffrey Robinson seconded. Motion passed with all in favor. Barbara Snyder abstained.

Economic and Community Development - Staff Updates

Restaurant Week:

Kim Chiappetta told the group that the department has sent out a survey to restaurant owners to obtain feedback.

Website Consolidation project:

Kim updated members that the wireframe templates have been approved and pages are in design.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):

Kim reminded the Chair and Vice Chair that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is available for public review and comment. Fran asked that Kim share the document link.

Projects (45 Main St, Heritage Trail/7 Glen Rd, 28a Glen Rd and Fairfield Hills mixed use):

Kim updated that all projects are moving forward. For the Heritage Trail project, answers to contractor questions was posted on the Purchasing page of the town website on Monday, October 17th. For the 28a Glen Rd project, testing continues.



Member Comments and Questions

6 Commerce Update:

Fran had nothing new to report. Members discussed the need for someone to be a point of contact with the developer when the Director of Planning retires. It is expected that the driveway will be paved sometime in the spring. Barbara asked if the contract with the developer was extended. Jeffrey replied that an extension has been signed.

Member Project(s) Update:

none

Business additions resident feedback (cont'd):

none

Vacant commercial space and Business Zones Observations:

none

Other Commissions Observations:

none

Chairman & Vice Chairman Report/Comments

Strategic Plan for Economic Development:

Jeffrey asked the commission, as a whole, to read what Fran has edited and written and come prepared to move it forward in the next meeting. Fran said the goal is to incorporate members' comments, and then pass the draft document onto a sub-committee for completion. Kim will email the draft version to Commission members who were not in attendance.

Officers Election:

Jeffrey noted that the November meeting is normally the election of new officers. He explained that he will not be able to attend the November meeting. After some discussion, all agreed to postpone the election to the December meeting.

Adjournment:

Jeffrey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Jeffrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. and was seconded by Fran. All members in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk*