



Economic Development Commission

MINUTES

January 17, 2023

Newtown Municipal Center
Shared Meeting Room 3
3 Primrose St

Present: Jeffrey Robinson, Nick Roussas, Fran Pennarola, Tracey Pertoso, Barbara Snyder, Bruce Walczak, Valerie Fallon

Absent: Steve Matiatos, Peter McLoughlin

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

Public Attendance:

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

Public Participation:

None.

Approval of Minutes:

Fran Pennarola made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from December 13, 2022. Bruce Walczak seconded. Motion passed with all in favor. Valerie Fallon and Tracey Pertoso abstained.

Election of Officers:

Chair Jeffrey Robinson opened the floor for the nomination of a Chair.

Barbara Snyder nominated Jeffrey Robinson for Chair. Bruce Walczak seconded. All in favor. Tracey Pertoso abstained.

Nick Roussas nominated Barbara Snyder for Vice Chair. Fran Pennarola seconded. All in favor. Tracey Pertoso abstained.

Fran motioned to close nominations.

Jeffrey Robinson was unanimously elected as Chair. Tracey Pertoso abstained.

Barbara Snyder was unanimously elected as Vice Chair. Tracey Pertoso abstained.

Economic and Community Development - Staff Updates

None.



Member Comments and Questions

6 Commerce Update:

Jeffrey informed members that the agreement with the contractor for the town owned 6 Commerce Rd property expires next month. Members discussed if property would have to go out for rebid. Barbara asked if the town could contact the developers who submitted proposals during the first RFP. Members discussed the increased construction costs since the project was first proposed. Bruce noted that there may still be similar issues with the Fairfield Hills Campus.

Member Project(s) Update:

Business additions resident feedback (cont'd):

None.

Vacant commercial space and Business Zones Observations:

Nick and Tracey told the Commission that Five Guys will be re-opening in Plaza South near Nostrano. Tracey said Sweet Mango is returning as take-out only, and is moving into where the Sugar Magnolia bake shop was located. Barbara noted that Sand Hill Plaza is looking better. Members all agreed. Jeffrey told members that the building next to Hawley School will be coming down shortly and they should be building soon.

Other Commissions Observations:

None.

Chairman & Vice Chairman Report/Comments

Strategic Plan for Economic Development:

Members reviewed and made updates to the Strategic Plan.

Adjournment:

Jeffrey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Nick made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. and was seconded by Barbara. All members in favor.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk*