



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority
MEETING MINUTES

**The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Meeting on July 26, 2021
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, Michael Holmes, Andrew Philbin

Absent: Terry Sagedy, Melissa Beylouni, Brook Clark, Renata Adler

Public Attendance: Jim Landy

Also Present: Kim Chiappetta (clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. without a quorum.

Public Participation: None

Acceptance of Minutes:

The minutes were not voted on due to a lack of a quorum.

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Ross Carley began the meeting by thanking participants for donating their time to the Town of Newtown, and welcomed Jim Landy who will be filling the vacant seat effective 7/30. Ross recognized that there was not a quorum and gave a brief Chairman's report.

Ross provided a status update on the Fairfield Hills mixed use development RFP process. All proposals have been reviewed and a developer will be selected soon. It is expected that the Fairfield Hills Authority will be involved at certain points in the process. The campus continues to experience break-ins in the vacant buildings. Ross said the police are doing the best they can and expressed his thanks to Sgt. Silver for assisting in sending officers to monitor the campus when requested. Ross continued to inform the group that the proposals received have been from developers who have extensive experience in renovating large, older buildings. Ross provided a brief history of how the campus was built and the issues with natural running ground water. One building which experiences constant water is Plymouth Hall.

Bicycle Playground:

Andrew Philbin asked about the proposed location for the bicycle playground. Mike Holmes told Andrew that the location is now outlined with flags. Both Ross and Mike expressed that they felt the area should be fenced in as is the skate park at Dickinson. Mike asked if the playground would be for Newtown residents only and if yes, who would be monitoring the area. Mike told members that his major concern is with having bikes on the trail. He has taken 6 complaints from residents about riders on the trail who were driving walkers off the sides of the trail. Ross asked if there is a way to make the trails safer and gave the example of a bike lane. Mike questioned why the bicycle playground wasn't being installed at Dickenson Park in the open field. The group continued to discuss concerns with bicycles on the campus. In an effort to ensure all Authority members are able to attend the next meeting, Ross asked members in attendance if they would be able to attend a special

meeting after August 11th. The group agreed on Monday, August 16th. Ross asked the Clerk to ensure members are made aware of the importance of the special meeting.

Member Updates:

None.

Staff Update:

Events:

Kim Chiappetta provided a brief update of campus events. The Parks & Rec outdoor movie night is being held Tuesday, August 17th. Most events have been scheduled for September and early October with the Arts Festival and Newtown Day returning and plans to hold the REACH Car Show.

Meeting at NewSylum:

Kim informed everyone that the Newtown Economic and Community Development department and Economic and Community Development Commission sponsored the Fairfield County Commercial Brokers Network July meeting at NewSylum. Brokers who had never visited the campus were impressed and many enjoyed NewSylum and planned to return. Kim explained that these meetings are beneficial and how Christal continues to network to ensure Newtown stays front of mind when brokers are looking for locations for clients.

Sanitary Sewer Replacement project:

Kim told the group that there has not been much progress since her last report. The design has been completed and she is in the process of completing necessary EDA paperwork so the design can be submitted to the EDA for approval.

Ross reminded members of the plan to have an event field on the campus. The preferred location is between the Victory Garden and the Stamford Hall and Norwalk Hall buildings. Once Norwalk Hall is demolished the area could be made a parking lot for event attendees and workers.

Adjournment:

With no further business Ross closed the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk.

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