

Newtown Municipal Center  
3 Primrose Street  
Newtown, CT  
[www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org)



## MINUTES

January 21, 2020

Meeting Room 3 - 7:00pm

### **Present:**

Wes Thompson, Cramer Owen, Barbara Snyder, Valerie Fallon, Al Roznicki, Nick Roussas, Steve Gogliettino, Jeffrey Robinson, Kim Chiappetta – Economic and Community Development & Fairfield Hills Coordinator (clerk)

**Absent:** Christal Preszler – Deputy Director Economic and Community Development

**Public Attendance:** None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Public Participation:** None.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Al Roznicki made a motion to accept the regular meeting minutes from November 19, 2019. Valerie Fallon seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Barbara Snyder made a motion to accept the Special meeting minutes from December 5<sup>th</sup> and January 7<sup>th</sup>. Valerie Fallon seconded. Motion passed with all in favor. (Members who abstained: Cramer Owen, Al Roznicki, Nick Roussas, Steve Gogliettino, Jeffrey Robinson)

### **Election of EDC Officers:**

Chairman Wes Thompson opened the election for Chairman. He explained that he was stepping down from the Chairman's position to allow for fresh, new ideas.

Wes nominated Cramer Owen as EDC Chairman. Al seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Chairman Cramer Owen delegated authority to Wes to chair the remainder of the meeting.

Cramer and Al nominated Wes Thompson as Vice Chairman. Barbara seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Wes thanked everyone for their consideration.



**Economic and Community Development - Staff Updates:**

**Events & Activities:**

*Naugatuck Valley COG Regional Brownfield meeting:*

In Christal Preszler's absence, Kim Chiappetta informed members that Christal attended a Naugatuck Valley COG Regional Brownfield meeting on Tuesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. In this meeting it was announced that the Naugatuck Valley COG is asking for an additional \$15,000 for the grant awarded to clean-up the 28a Glen Rd property. Currently, the town was awarded \$30,000 with \$13,000 of this amount being awarded to the LEP (Licensed Environment Professional) leaving only \$17,000 for mobilization and clean-up. The additional \$15,000 will allow for more clean-up of contaminants.

*Fairfield Hills Community Conversation 3:*

The next Community Conversation regarding the Fairfield Hills campus is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will focus on options for the campus. Wes noted that this is the same date as the February EDC meeting and recommended that the EDC meeting be cancelled or rescheduled so that all members can attend.

Jeffrey Robinson motioned to cancel the February EDC meeting. Valerie seconded. Motion passed with all in favor.

Wes told members of the fourth and final Fairfield Hills Community Conversation meeting being held on March 16<sup>th</sup>. This meeting will have developers presenting their ideas for the campus. Cramer noted that the Planning & Zoning Commission determines uses on the Fairfield Hills campus but the topic is so politicized that it is necessary to obtain public input.

The group discussed the low attendance at the Community Conversation meetings. Valerie asked how much marketing is being done to inform the public of the presentations and meeting videos posted on the Town's website

**Member Comments and Updates:**

***General Discussion:***

*Fairfield County Commercial Brokers Network (FCCBN) holiday meeting:*

Barbara told the group about the Fairfield County Commercial Brokers Network (FCCBN) having their holiday party at the Community Center. It was a wonderful event that got the commercial brokers to see Community Center. Wes recognized Barbara's work that ensured their event was successful.



*Brochures:*

Barbara was also involved in the Newtown Holiday Festival that was advertised on the winter brochure which was available at the State Tourist Centers. Barbara told members about the great success of the event and how it brought people to town. Valerie told everyone that she and Barbara will begin work on the next brochure and will try to template as much as possible. The plan is to highlight events by season. The group briefly discussed the budget for marketing and branding. Barbara added that Newtown Savings bank loaned use of their paintings for the brochures.

*Branding:*

Valerie asked about the status of the branding project. Kim explained that town staff has a meeting scheduled with Haven Creative in February. Wes reviewed the process taken to select the group and noted the research done in advance by the Haven Creative which made them so well informed. Valerie told the group that Haven Creative specializes in community branding.

*Other meetings:*

Wes asked if any members attended any of the Borough meetings. The group discussed the public's concerns with 8-30g, and then discussed successful developments in other towns.

*CCM Workshop at the Community Center:*

Wes reminded Commission members of the CCM (Connecticut Conference of Municipalities) workshop "A Transformational Approach to Economic Development" being held at the Community Center on February 13<sup>th</sup> and encouraged members to attend.

**Chairman's and Vice Chairman's Reports:**

*SHOP:*

Wes informed the Commission that a contract was submitted by SHOP to the First Selectman for the lease of 7 Glen Rd for use as a part of their Heritage Park.

*Business Preparedness and Disaster Recovery:*

Wes explained that he and Kim have been working on disaster recovery plan. The plan is very high-level and basic. He noted that the Emergency Operations Center continues to be the single point of contact.

*Church Hill Village Ribbon Cutting:*

Wes told members about the Church Hill Village ribbon cutting schedule for Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and that all members are invited. Church Hill Village will hold an open house this Saturday and Sunday. He further explained the ways in which they have been a good corporate citizen.

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The group discussed South Main Street and the current state of Sandy Hill plaza.

**6 Commerce Rd Update and Next Steps:**

Cramer told members that the First Selectman gave guidance that they are green lighted to move forward with appraisals. Purchasing Agent, Rick Spreyer, will be involved in the process.

**Misc. cross commission activities:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned by Nick Roussas at 8:00 pm and was seconded by Barbara Snyder.

*Respectfully Submitted,                      Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk*