

**Town of Fairfield  
Office of Community & Economic Development  
Affordable Housing Commission  
April 17, 2012**

The Affordable Housing Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on April 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room in Old Town Hawn.

**PRESENT:** Steve Grathwohl, Chair; Mary Galgota; Gerry Stuhlman

**Also Present:** Mark Barnhart, Director of Housing and Economic Development; Keith Cook, Habitat for Humanity; Jean Sturges, Pat Reilly, Fairfield League of Women Voters

Mr. Grathwohl called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Distributions:** Minutes of March 21, 2012

**Minutes:** The minutes of March 21, 2012 were approved.

Mr. Grathwohl welcomed Mr. Stuhlman as a new member of the Commission.

**Guests**

Mr. Gathwohl introduced Mr. Cook, Director of Construction and Co-President of the Coastal Fairfield County Habitat for Humanity. This region includes the communities from Stratford to Stamford. Mr. Cook defined the scope of work and development of the chapter and stressed that they rely on the cooperation and labor of donors, volunteers and potential homeowners. He said they have four functions: Social Service Agency; Community Organizer; Builder; Banker. Habitat builds a simple, energy efficient home that is sold at cost to the chosen homeowner. There is no down payment and no interest charged on the mortgages. At the end on 30 years, the resident owns the home. Mr. Grathwohl asked if there was any Habitat activity in Fairfield. Mr. Cook said there is a need for affordable housing here but that the availability of land is a problem. He sited GE as the major corporate sponsor.

Mr. Grathwohl introduced Ms. Sturges and Ms. Reilly from the League. They explained that their organization adopted an affordable housing position after conducting a study of the situation in Fairfield. They favor a variety of housing options for residents and are supportive of inclusionary zoning policies.

**130 Fairchild Avenue**

Mr. Grathwohl said the developer is going to appeal the denial of the zoning change to HUD using the statute 8-30-G.

**Thorpe Street/Lumber Yard**

Mr. Grathwohl said the Conservation Commission had approved a condominium development for this site. No affordable units are included in the plans. Issues still being considered are flooding and traffic. The site is in an industrial zone and has only one access point.

**Exide**

Mr. Barnhart said there is work on the site. The DEEP has agreed to a clean-up plan. He expects a further hearing on the specifications later this spring. Work will be done around a blackout period to allow for a

spawning period for the aquatic like. Mr. Barnhart said the developer is waiting to be able to apply for development permits.

### ***Sasco Hill/Post Road***

Mr. Barnhart said the developer has bought the adjacent property and revised his application. The new plan is supported by the neighborhood.

### ***Other Business***

Mr. Barnhart said the US Post Office would be moving to space vacated by the Dinosaur's Paw

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Independence Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen Goethner