

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

October 14, 2010

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on October 14, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Maureen Abrahamson; Chris LaSala; Bruce Manasevit; Sally Ward; Abbas Nadim

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Don Peterson; Ross Ogden, Abbey Road Partners; Lisa Joaquin, Chamber of Commerce

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of September 9, 2010 were approved as amended.

5545 Park Avenue

Mr. Barnhart said he had provided a letter of support on behalf of the EDC for the proposed facility on this site. The P & Z hearing was continued to October 13. The meeting was not well attended though some neighbors expressed concerns as to the uses and hours of operation of the businesses.

Commerce Drive Planning Study

Mr. Barnhart said there would be minor changes to the two plans distributed at last month's meeting before the public hearing. Ms. Abrahamson complimented the presentation made by Mr. Devonshuk. The public hearing will take place in either December or January 2011. Mr. Penczer suggested that a member of the P & Z staff be invited to the November meeting to review the final plan with the commissioners.

Mr. Manasevit asked if there were to be more changes in the traffic pattern in the area. Mr. Barnhart said lights will be installed soon and that some of the work

being done is maintenance as well as improvement. A complete overhaul is not planned at this time. Mr. Barnhart said that as more commercial development occurs, further improvements would be made. Mr. Penczer suggested the EDC invite a traffic expert to speak to it in the future.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said the project is on or ahead of schedule. He is pleased with the contractor, Guerrero, and said they address issues immediately. Blasting is on going and is being coordinated with the local businesses. It should be finished by Thanksgiving. Mr. Nadim asked when the station would open. Mr. Barnhart said Mr. Flatto is working with MetroNorth, but they anticipate this will happen by the end of 2011. Mr. Barnhart said that in January there would be some work in the area near the access road that might affect BJ's and the cinemas.

Penfield Pavilion

Mr. LaSala said he thinks that there may be a possibility of a public/private partnership for Penfield I and/or II that could benefit the town (modeled on Long Shore). He also mentioned the need for some improvements at Lake Mohegan. Mr. Barnhart said these properties are under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Penczer suggested that a letter be sent to Parks & Rec asking their opinion on the management of these entities and inviting a representative of the department to speak to the EDC.

Other Business

Mr. Barnhart said he spoke with Mary Hogue of the PTA Council at the suggestion of Ms. Abrahamson. They will see if there are ways the Council and local businesses can cooperate on events.

Ms. Abrahamson asked that the issue of downtown traffic, especially during the holidays, be addressed with the police department. Mr. Barnhart said he has spoken to Capt. Lyddy and will keep in touch with him about this.

Mr. Nadim asked if the concept of sustainability is part of new business planning in Fairfield. He offered to lead a workshop on the subject. Ms. Abrahamson said most local businesses do not recycle. Ms. Joaquin said recycling should be made easier for the shop owners. Mr. Barnhart said he would try to set up a workshop on this for January 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

The next meeting is November 4, 2010.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner