

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

January 7, 2010

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on January 7, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Sally Ward; Maureen Abrahamson; Chris LaSala; Brian Silvestro

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Ross Ogden, Abbey Road Partners; Peter Ambrose; Ken Martin and Cody Lee, Fairfield County LLC.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m.

Presentation, 1520 Post Road (Colony Grill)

Mr. Martin and Mr. Lee presented their concept for the Colony Grill, which they are proposing for the site of the Fairfield Stationers on the Post Road. They have licensed the name and recipes from the Stamford location of the same name. They will be going to the ZBA later today in hopes of securing a parking variance that will allow the work to go forward. They credited Mr. Barnhart for his knowledge and help and the web site of the Housing and Economic Development office for aiding their decision to locate in Fairfield. Mr. Barnhart said they would also need to appear before the P & Z to ask for permission to have a restaurant on the site. With these approvals, they expect to be operational by late April. A motion to ask the ZBA to approve the parking was passed.

Minutes

The minutes of December 3, 2010 were approved.

Distributions: Announcement of State Grant to Maintain Progress on Fairfield Metro Station; dossier on the Colony Grill

Meeting Schedule - 2010

Mr. Penczer confirmed that the meetings would be held at 8:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of each month. A schedule was distributed to Commissioners and has been filed with the Town Clerk.

Election of Officers

The slate of officers is as follows: Chair, Mr. Penczer; Vice-chair, Mr. LaSala; Secretary, Mr. Manasevit. The slate was approved unanimously.

Fairfield Center

Ms. Abramson said she had received no feedback from local merchants as to the effort to improve the holiday parking situation downtown. Mr. Barnhart said his office had published a list of parking locations on the web site. Ms. Abramson suggested that the EDC meet again with the Police Department representatives for their perspective.

Mr. Barnhart said the EDC would present a proposal to the Police Commission requesting 3 hour parking on Unquowa Road per a request from the merchants on the street. Starting next week, the banners on the light posts will promote local businesses.

Commerce Drive Planning Study

Mr. Barnhart said that he had discussed the proposals with the P & Z staff and that they expect draft regulations by the end of January.

Micro Enterprise

Mr. Barnhart said a Micro Enterprise application has been approved for a yoga business.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart referenced the press release from the Governor's office announcing a grant to be used toward completion of construction of an access road and parking on the site. He hopes that design and construction will be completed in 12 to 18 months. Mr. Ambrose asked if the existing permits are transferable. Mr. Barnhart said they were and that it is possible that extensions would be sought. He said the developer still owns the land. Ms. Abramson asked if 'thank you' notes should be sent to those responsible for obtaining the grant. Mr. Barnhart will see to this.

Handy & Harmon/Kings Crossing

Mr. Barnhart said site work has begun. The developer must have a pad in place by mid-2010 to meet contract obligations.

Penfield Pavilion

Mr. Barnhart said there is a preliminary commitment to redo the west wing of Penfield I. There is no news about any developments at Penfield II which Mr. LaSala feels is under utilized. Mr. Barnhart said he would make inquiries from the Park & Recreation Department.

New Business

Mr. Barnhart said he would be updating the 5-year plan for CDBG. He expects to hold workshops on topical area in order to get community input. One of these will be held during the March EDC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 a.m.

The next meeting is February 4, 2010

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
Thursday February 4, 2010
Old Town Hall Conference Room

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes of January 7, 2010
3. Presentation regarding semi-automatic parking system (K. Kleban)
4. Fairfield Center
5. Commerce Drive Planning Study
6. Micro Enterprise
7. Train Station Project
8. Handy & Harmon/Kings Crossing
9. New Business
10. Adjournment