

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

March 10, 2011

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on March 10, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Don Peterson; Ross Ogden

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 3, 2011 were approved.

Commerce Drive Planning Study

Mr. Barnhart said the public hearing on the zoning changes has been moved to April 12, 2011. He said several property owners in the Commerce Drive area have approached him about improving their facilities once the changes are enacted. He has asked the P & Z for copies of land use maps for the town. Only 5% of the land is used for commercial/industrial purposes. Mr. Penczer said he is going to put his comments about the amendments together and will e-mail them to Mr. Barnhart for distribution to interested parties. He will do this as a resident of town, not as a member of the EDC. He suggested that if other commissioners had comments that they do the same. The commissioners agreed that the zoning proposal would be the subject of the April meeting.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said work was proceeding in a satisfactory manner. Drainage culverts are being installed and planting will begin soon. Utilities are being installed in the roadway. Mr. LaSala asked what effect the opening of the new station would have on the schedules at the existing stations in town. Mr. Barnhart said the town is working with the MTA on this matter.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Abrahamson said recycling bins have been purchased to be placed downtown. They will be paid for with advertising on the containers.

Mr. Barnhart said he might have an intern this summer. Since her work will be considered for credit at her college, there will be no cost to the town. He said he would like her to work on sustainable development issues and help implement the suggestion of Don Peterson to establish guidelines for evaluating proposed projects. He also thought she could organize a symposium for organizations interested in sustainability. Mr. Barnhart said she would start work in May.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting is April 7, 2011.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner