

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development  
Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

June 9, 2011

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on June 9, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Penczer, Chairman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Lee Domeika, Intern; Don Peterson; Sheri Steeneck, acting First Selectman

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

Mr. Barnhart introduced Lee Domeika, and intern who is attending the University of New Hampshire. Her major is Community Development and Environmental Conservation.

***Minutes***

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2011 was postponed due to a lack of a quorum.

***Commerce Drive Planning Study***

Mr. Penczer noted that the TP&Z would meet on June 14 to finalize the approved changes and the boundaries and overlays of the new zoning plan.

***Train Station Project***

Mr. Barnhart said progress is on schedule. Shoreline restoration work is being completed. Work on the access road has been slowed due to the difficulty of getting the utility companies to work on the implementation of the plans. It is hoped that this work will be completed by the scheduled target date of the station, October 16. Mr. Barnhart said that there has been more extensive PCB contamination than originally detected. The removal of the impacted material will not affect the opening. The development of the parking lot is proceeding on schedule. It has been discovered that some small out buildings on adjacent properties actually infringe on the parking lot property, but Mr. Barnhart expects a

quick resolution of the problem. The developer is in the process of getting permits for footings and foundations for the concourse building.

***OTHER BUSINESS***

Mr. Barnhart said Whole Foods has opened. They are producing a promotional video that will highlight the process of opening a business in town. The expectation is that it will encourage other businesses to do the same.

The development of a decision matrix was discussed. It was agreed that a small number of commissioners would meet with Mr. Peterson, Mr. Barnhart and Ms. Domeika to develop a set of qualifications that would be presented to potential developers on behalf of the EDC. The topics would focus on sustainability and appropriateness to the community and would provide a standard by which all potential projects would be measured. Mr. Barnhart emphasized that the matrix should reflect the economic aspects in keeping with the charge to the EDC. It was agreed that the group would meet on June 23 at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Domeika will generate a list of criteria and stakeholders for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner