

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

August 4, 2011

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on August 4, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

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

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:05 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of May 12, and June 9, 2011 were approved.

EDC Questionnaire/Decision Matrix

Mr. Barnhart said Lee Domeika, an intern in his department, had prepared the questionnaire/matrix. It was based on information provide by Mr. Peterson. The intent is to provide it to applicants in advance of their appearance before the Commission and to provide some rationale for responses by the EDC to proposed new developments. Mr. Penczer asked if there were any current projects that might serve as a testing ground for the questionnaire. Mr. Barnhart mentioned that the Sasco Hill Road/Post Road redevelopment had been turned down by the TPZ and that he had made some suggestions to the owners of the property. They might be interested in filling out such a form. It was suggested that the material be contained on one page. Ms. Abrahamson suggested sending it to land use attorneys in the area to be used as an addenda to their applications. Commissioners are asked to get further comments to Mr. Barnhart within the week so the questionnaire can be redesigned and could then be posted on the EDC web site.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said that he and the new construction manager are working together to see the project to completion. Remediation is the biggest problem because it is difficult to get accurate information on a site. Design issues have caused a number of changes. Mr. Penczer cited the fact that most 'surprises' in construction projects come in the site work (per Commerce Drive) as testing decisions are usually made at the beginning of the work. Areas still to be addressed include the utilities in the roadways; paving of the parking lot; completion of shoreline restoration. Mr. Ogden asked if the station could open if the remediation is not finished. Mr. Barnhart said the funds are already committed.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Barnhart said the Fairfield University Bookshop would be moving into the Border's space in October.

Shoprite will open soon on Black Rock Turnpike.

Five Guys, Chipotle, and Petco will take space next to Whole Foods. CVS is already open there.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner