

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

November 10, 2011

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Brian Silvestro

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Don Peterson; Police Chief McNamara; Officer Jim Perez; Officer Robert Kalamaras

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

Minutes

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2011 was postponed, due to lack of a quorum.

Train Station Project

Mr. Barnhart said construction of the station would be complete by the end of the week. The state will own the parking lot, the town the roadway and each will be responsible for maintenance of these facilities. He said there is one business existing on Constant Comment Way. It receives deliveries in large trucks early in the morning. This will conflict with movement of commuter traffic. Mr. Barnhart will try to negotiate with the business owner.

Mr. Barnhart said the parking lot would be conveyed to the state. Officer Perez asked who would police that area. Chief McNamara expressed concern that there was no plan in place to handle security problems. Officer Perez stressed the need to have cooperation from the state to see that problems are addressed promptly. The Chief suggested that the key players be identified soon and meet regularly to discuss a unified approach to potential problems.

Mr. Barnhart said he hopes the state issues small numbers of permits at a time in order to allow time to develop plans for access, egress and security.

Officer Kalamaraz said his group has done traffic studies in the area in order to have control data for comparison with post-opening traffic.

Downtown Traffic Concerns

Chief McNamara suggested that EDC could provide distinctive signs to direct shoppers to parking areas. He also said letters could be sent to businesses asking them to plan deliveries to avoid heavy shopping times. He will submit an agenda as to what the Police Department will do to ease traffic during the holiday period.

Mr. Penczer asked how traffic to the Fairfield University Bookstore is being handled. Officer Perez said the buses from the University have no designated place to park at this time. He will get a bus schedule from the Bookstore manager.

Other Business

Mr. Barnhart said the State should be conveying some property on the south side of the existing Center Train Station to the town soon. Some of that may be designated 'employee parking.' Officer Perez said he had received a request from the Parking Authority to redesign the areas on both sides of the tracks.

Mr. Penczer asked if the public could use the Tomlinson parking spaces during the school recess and for weekend use. Officer Perez will investigate.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

The next meeting will be on December 1, 2011

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner