

Town of Fairfield
Office of Community & Economic Development
Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting
June 14, 2012

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on June 14, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Brian Silvestro; Chris LaSala; Don Peterson

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development

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

Minutes: The minutes of May 10, 2012 were approved.

Proposed Medical Office Building

Mr. Barnhart said the proposed zone change has not appeared on the TP & Z calendar yet. He will send a letter to of support from the EDC stressing the Commission's desire to have this property on the tax rolls of the town.

Marketing Fairfield

The Commissioners discussed the recent press conference held at Fairfield University that elaborated on the economic benefit of the arts in the community. Mr. Penczer said there were 90 people in attendance. The impact of the not-for-profits was noted as was the revenue generated by businesses affected by arts projects. Mr. LaSala asked what might be done to increase the tax benefits to the town of such activities.

Mr. Barnhart said he had recently met with the president and provost of Sacred Heart University in order to encourage increased cooperation between town and gown and support for local businesses.

Mr. Barnhart said the video has been finalized. He will be discussing distribution with BizBuzz and securing their help in optimizing the impact of the work.

Mr. Barnhart said he had written letters in support of the outdoor dining requests of several local restaurants. The request of Archie Moore's was approved, the others were denied. They may come back with alternate proposals.

Mr. Barnhart said he was invited to a meeting of a group promoting walking and biking trails in the area. The Regional Planning Group is also involved.

Restaurant Week Business Outreach

Mr. Barnhart said he expects this event to happen in the fall. Restaurateurs with whom he has spoken have been very supportive.

Other Business

Mr. Barnhart said he expects to reach out to the larger businesses in town during the summer to ask them how the town can be helpful to them. He invited commissioners to participate Mr. Peterson expressed an interest in helping with the interviews.

Mr. Barnhart said he would be attending a meeting in Hartford on transit related development. One of the topics is expected to be affordable housing.

Fairchild Avenue/Campfield Drive: The developers have filed appeals against the town in order to ensure their affordable housing proposals go forward.

Mr. Barnhart said that Black Rock Realty has filed a motion to change the approved commercial building to residential use. The train station is working well with no traffic or parking problems.

Mr. Peterson asked if there would be meetings in July and August. Mr. Barnhart said that would be determined by the amount of business that should come before the Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 12, 2012.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner