

Town of Fairfield

Office of Community & Economic Development

Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

August 10, 2012

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on August 10, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Peter Penczer, Chairman; Chris LaSala; Brian Silvestro; Maureen Abrahamson

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Sally Parker; Jack Franzen; Steve Grathwohl

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

Minutes:

The minutes of July 12, 2012 were approved.

Post Office

Mr. Franzen, architect and Mr. Grathwohl, developer, presented plans for the redevelopment of the Fairfield Post Office building. Their expectation is that the space will be designed for one retail tenant. The design calls for leaving the front of the building in the current Georgian Revival style. New space would be added in the rear of the facility. Parking will be adjusted and the lot will be designed for on-site water retention. The lower level would be used for storage but not for retail space. Mr. Grathwohl said the property is now owned by a subsidiary of Westport Capital Partners. Mr. Penczer asked when the developers expect the building to be ready for occupancy. Mr. Grathwohl said he expected the occupancy date would be by September 2013.

Mr. Penczer asked moved that a letter of support from the EDC be sent to the T P & Z. The motion was approved.

The WPA mural has been removed and may find a new home at the Fairfield History Museum.

Proposed Medical Office Building

Mr. Barnhart said there was a public hearing on this plan on July 24th. Ms. Parker said the hearing was closed.

Restaurant Week

Mr. Barnhart said this event is being planned for the week of October 14-20. He is working with potential partners such as the Fairfield History Museum, the Universities and Library and the Fairfield Theater Company. He hopes to be able to promote other businesses through the use of a 'Passport.' Patrons would enter a raffle for goods and services. The Library is planning a juried competition for appetizers at this time as well as a miniature golf fundraiser. Mr. LaSala said he would assist with web site promotion. Other ideas were suggested for advancing the program.

Grant: Main Street Investment Fund

Mr. Barnhart asked for help in putting together the application for funds from this source. He said 130 Connecticut municipalities are eligible for grants. The Fairfield application would be geared toward extending the streetscape from Mill Plain Road to the Exide property. He will notify the EDC members when the Selectmen meet to discuss this project and approve the application process.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2012.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner