

# Town of Fairfield

## Office of Community & Economic Development

### Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting

September 20, 2012

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on September 20, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Peter Penczer, Chairman; Don Peterson Brian Silvestro; Maureen Abrahamson

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Sally Parker; Paul Gustafson; Devin Pfeifer; Peter Ambrose

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m.

#### ***Minutes:***

The minutes of August 10, 2012 were approved.

#### ***682 Commerce Drive***

Mr. Gustafson presented the completed questionnaire and plans for a child care center to be installed in his building at 682 Commerce Drive. The facility is currently occupied by his tool and dye business. The tenant, Bright Horizons, would employ 30-35 people and would join several other family/child oriented businesses in the area. One hundred twenty four children would attend. Hours of operation would probably be 6-6. An outdoor playground would be part of the facility. Mr. Gustafson said the facility would need a special permit from the state. It would probably open in the summer of 2013. Mr. Penczer asked for a motion to approve a letter of support to be sent to the TP&Z. The motion was accepted.

#### ***Restaurant Week***

Mr. Barnhart said this event is planned for the week of October 14-20. He has secured the participation of at least 34 restaurants. Each venue will offer prix fixe lunches and dinners. Support has come from Fairfield University, the Fairfield Museum and History Center, the Fairfield Theater Company, the Fairfield Public Library. A number of these organizations will have concurrent events. Participating diners will receive a 'passport' in which will be information about discounts at local retail outlets. Each diner will have a number to be entered in a drawing for a major prize. Media on board so far include WSHU, WICC, WEBE, and the Connecticut Post.

#### ***Main Street Investment Fund***

Mr. Barnhart said Fairfield did not receive funds from the first round of grants. He is hoping to improve the plan that was submitted in order to qualify for funds in the next anticipated round. The TP&Z is already looking at the section of town under consideration (from Thorpe Street to the Sasco Creek). Mr. Barnhart said there is one year to work out some new plans. He anticipates asking the developers and owners of property on the area to consider elements in their plans that would blend with new streetscape development. This would include the placement of appropriate streetlamps and planting as well as the placement of parking. Mr. Barnhart stressed that this work will need interaction between the TP&Z and the EDC.

***Other Business***

Mr. Penczer noted that the Fairfield Museum and History Center is opening a new exhibit around the Emancipation Proclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2012.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner