

**Town of Fairfield**  
**Office of Community & Economic Development**  
**Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting**

April 11, 2013

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on April 11, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

**PRESENT:** Peter Penczer, Chairman; Don Peterson; Maureen Abrahamson; Chris LaSala; Brian Silvestro; Sally Ward

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Brian Bidolli, Executive Director, Greater Bridgeport Regional Council

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 8:07 a.m.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of February 14, 2013 were approved, as amended.

**3611 Post Road, Southport**

Mr. Barnhart said this property was being redeveloped as a one story, gourmet food establishment. Garelick and Herbs is moving here from its Westport site. There has been a code review meeting and a zone change will be requested soon. Mr. Peterson asked if the EDC gets any feedback from the letters submitted supporting development projects. Mr. Barnhart said this has not happened to date.

**GBRC Community Profile/Business Data**

Mr. Bidolli said the agency was formerly a regional agency providing a link between transportation improvements and economic development. Its current focus is on building a regional database that can be accessed by town departments, developers and business owners. Information and analysis will be available online and will offer such information as demographics, drive times, comparisons to other locations, aerial photos of sites, etc. There will be many links to other valuable information.

Mr. Penczer suggested that Commissioners attend a meeting of the group on May 9, and that the May meeting of the EDC be held on May 16, 2013.

**Post Office Redevelopment**

Mr. Barnhart said the TP & Z approved the second application for this development.

## **Fairfield Day**

Mr. Barnhart said he is working with local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce to make this day, July 27, attractive to shoppers as well as providing entertainment and additional food vendors to add to the festivities. So far, the Fairfield Theater Company and at least 20 businesses have expressed interest in participating.

## **Other Business**

Mr. Barnhart said his department is pursuing state funding for some streetscape improvements in the Commerce Drive area. The next step is to have a public informational meeting for those who reside or have businesses in the area. The Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and RTM must support the work in order for it to go forward. If the grant were awarded to Fairfield, the town would be expected to contribute 20% to the funding.

Mr. Peterson said he is still working on a survey to be distributed in order to assess what town residents think is desirable development for the town. He will send a preliminary copy to Mr. Barnhart and Mr. Penczer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2013.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner