

Town of Fairfield
Office of Community & Economic Development
Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting
May 16, 2013

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on May 16, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Jason Garelick, Bryan LeClerc, Ross Ogden

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes

The minutes of January and April were approved as distributed.

3611 Post Road

Mr. LeClerc and Mr. Garelick presented plans for a new food market proposed for this site. Mr. Garelick expects to move his existing business from Westport to Fairfield. He will be applying for a zone change to Designed Commercial. This change is a necessary component of the property sale. The building is expected to meet 'green' standards, to have ample parking and to entice patrons to this part of the Post Road. The facility will open in late 2014 if a zoning change is granted.

Fairfield Sales Day

Mr. Barnhart said he wants to increase the profile of this July event by involving more of the business owners in the center of town. Merchants have been asked for their input. There will be opportunities for street music and associated activities. Businesses located in other of parts of town as well as non-profit organizations will be invited to put table/booths up in the area. Mr. Barnhart said he sees this as a preview to the celebration of Fairfield's 375th anniversary.

GBRC

Mr. Barnhart said he is a member of this regional group. He distributed a draft of an article about Fairfield he is to submit to the group. He asked the commissioners to submit comments on the images to his office.

New Business Incubator

Mr. Barnhart said that Ken Kleban was interested in starting an incubator for young entrepreneurs. It will be housed in a space at the Brick Walk. Some interest has been expressed by Fairfield University and an invitation will be extended to students at Sacred Heart. Mr. Barnhart asked the commissioners to suggest areas outside of technology where there is a need for this kind of help. Mr. Kleban and the EDC will be looking for sponsors and operating

support. Mr. LaSala mentioned that there are many media executives in Fairfield who might be interested in participating. Mr. LaSala is willing to assist.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

The next meeting is June 13 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner