

Town of Fairfield
Office of Community & Economic Development
Final Minutes of Economic Development Commission Meeting
September 5, 2013

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on September 5, 2013 at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Town Hall Conference Room.

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

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Ken Johnson, Child's World Academy; Atty. John Fallon; Ross Ogden

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

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of August 1, 2013 were approved.

1280 Stratfield Road (former Stratfield Market)

Mr. Johnson presented his company's plan for a childcare center at the site of the former Stratfield Market. The facility would undergo a complete renovation and would have a maximum capacity of 150 children, ages 6 weeks to 12 years. The staff would number approximately 25 and they would be on duty on a rotating basis. There is the possibility of additional summer programs, as well. Mr. Johnson said he and his wife (co-owner) had a favorable meeting with neighbors recently. Mr. Fallon said his client would be applying for a special exception permit soon, although the use is a permitted one in this case. The company has three other locations: Monroe, CT, Trumbull, CT and Peekskill, NY.

Mr. Peterson made a motion that the EDC submit a letter of support for the project. The motion was approved unanimously.

Restaurant Week

Mr. Barnhart said that Restaurant Week is scheduled for October 13 to October 19, 2013. Most of the restaurants that participated last year are on board again along with some new ones. As with the previous promotion, patrons will be given 'passports', which will entitle them to be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by local businesses. Media sponsors are being enlisted.

Business Accelerator

Mr. Barnhart said that the space donated by the Kleban organization is being fitted out and should be ready for operation soon. Investors are being sought. UI has agreed to participate. Participants will be sought from across the community and as of now, there is no restriction on the type of business that will be considered.

Main Street Investment Program

Mr. Barnhart said the town has received a \$250,000 grant to be used for pedestrian and streetscape improvements to the Post Road from Mill Plain Road to South Pine Creek. Safety and maintenance issues will also be addressed. Mr. LaSala mentioned the difficulty of crossing safely at the Mill Plain Road/Post Road intersection and requested some solutions. Mr. Barnhart encouraged commissioners to forward other suggestions for this area to his office.

Mr. LaSala made a motion asking Mr. Tetreau to urge TPZ to update the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, as all decisions relating to development and redevelopment should reference this plan. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Barnhart will extend an invitation, through the Chairman, to the First Selectman to attend a future EDC meeting to discuss.

Other Business

Mr. Barnhart asked if the commissioners could meet the first Thursday of the month. This schedule change was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

The next meeting is October 3, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Goethner