## **Logo, company name Description automatically generatedTown of New Fairfield**

**4 Brush Hill Road**

**New Fairfield, Connecticut**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Myke Furhman, James Kloos, Kathleen DiTullio, Greg Manning, Evan White, Zoning Officer

Since Mr. Furhman and Mr. Manning had not yet been reappointed, there was no quorum so the meeting started at 7:01 pm with the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes – March 21, 2022**

The minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

**Opening Public Comment & Participation**

There was none.

**Correspondence & Announcements**

There was none.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Beautification Project – Signs Update**

Mr. Manning spoke with the Newtown Economic Development Coordinator about the signs they put off exit 10 on I-84. She suggested the signs should be bigger and lower on the post. Mr. Manning didn't think the size was that bad but the expense was high about $8000 per sign. Mr. Furhman asked if the $8000 consisted of sign design and installation and Mr. Manning said he would have to look. The Newtown Economic Development Coordinator also sent a picture of the sign from Norfolk which includes a solar panel so it's lit up at night. Mr. Furhman noted that was on Route 44 even though it was set back from the road.

Ms. DiTullio said she saw those signs off of exit 10 and they are carved signs which might be more expensive. She felt the same look could be done with the paint then asked who paid for the signs. Mr. Manning said he did not know. Ms. DiTullio felt the sign on Route 37 could use a “welcome to” on top and it would be nice to have the solar lighting.

**New Fairfield Town Postcard/Town Sticker Update**

Mr Furhman said they could not vote tonight but they could look at pricing. Mr. Kloos said he had looked up vinyl bumper stickers, 4 inches round which he was hoping to get for the Sip and Stroll event on May 21st. Mr. Kloos said the sticker would be a removable vinyl bumper sticker though he liked the idea of magnets as well. Mr Furhman said they could hold a special meeting to vote on spending the money on the sticker and felt they should look up the price of magnets as well.

**EDC Commission Participation in upcoming New Fairfield Events**

Already discussed the Sip and Stroll event. Mr. Manning said Parks and Rec is looking for help for the event on May 21st and he said they would in all likelihood have a table. Ms. DiTullio said she had spoken to Parks and Rec and asked if they could get the same spot as for the Halloween trick or treat because it wasn't in front of any business. She also called local wineries and breweries to try and get donations. Mr. Furhman says he knows the owner at Housatonic River Brewing and would reach out to them. Mr. Manning asked if there was any liability if they served alcohol. Mr. Furhman said maybe they could put together a raffle basket and get people to sign up for the EDC newsletter for a chance to win the basket. Mr. Manning asked if there could be a QR code and Mr. Furhman said he could set that up he also thought it'd be easy to just keystroke every name.

**Signage at High School - DiTullio**

Ms. DiTullio said she has made a list of every area sign company but the priority right now is the signage Mr. Manning is working on. She asked to push this off until next fiscal year but didn't know whether the EDC or the town should pay for it. Mr. Furhman said parents come from out of town to the various events and this sign would tell them where to go for meals etc. but they will postpone until July.

**ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants**

**a.) Community Development Ideas**

**b.) Sewer Study**

Mr. Furhman said he had no specific update about the ARPA money or the sewer study. Mr. White said there were no current updates and they were still waiting to get everything finalized. Mr. Furhman said he had discussed the idea of a promotional video and asked if there was enough time to do it. Mr. White thought it was a great idea and thought there would be time.

**Consolidated School Discussion – Manning**

Mr. Manning said he thought this had come off the EDC agenda because now it was on the Zoning Commission agenda for approval of the bus lot. He said the town attorney had pulled the request from the Zoning Commission and there would be a special meeting on April 25th for public comment. He said it sounds like there might be a compromise in terms of room for the bus lot and saving the north portion of Consolidated.

Mr. Furhman said there's going to be a community survey including for a community center.

Mr. White said there would be a special zoning meeting to discuss the entire proposal including tearing down consolidated.

**Electric Vehicle Charging Stations - DiTullio**

Ms. DiTullio said Mr. Kiviat had been in Ridgefield at the Stop and Shop where they had a freestanding electric vehicle charging unit which also had an advertisement posting so she contacted the company. She said she was going to contact the assessor to see the number of electric vehicles registered in town.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**New and Prospective Businesses**

Mr. Furhman asked Mr. White if there any new applications. Mr. White said that there was a facial and cosmetic spa that was applying to take part of the Bank of America space building.

Mr. Furhman said he heard Sarah’s was for sale.

**Flowers for Town Signage**

Ms. DiTullio said the town crew did the sign in the center of town and she thought something should be done with sign on Route 37. She said she would reach out to the Halas family who has been very generous in the past. Mr. Furhman said Clare’s on Haviland Hollow might do something if there's ever a sign out that way.

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Kloos**

Mr. Kloos said that he had sent out an email on the ribbon cutting for Trend Company which is a new business in town and Ms. DiTullio had bought balloons and a ribbon to cut. There was a good turn out and a nice photo opportunity for the Town Tribune who will write an article. That was a soft opening but the ribbon cutting can be used as a template going forward. There were 30 to 40 people that attended.

Mr. White said he had forgotten there was also a tea shop coming to the heritage Plaza.

**Closing Public Comment**

Mr. Kloos said Ken Gucker had called him about the Marjorie Trail and said that the city of Danbury had received funding. He felt that the mayor's assistant should be contacted to get the trail work going. Mr. White said he could reach out to the Danbury zoning office.

Ed Spardone said he was not aware that EDC had a newsletter so he just went on to the town website to subscribe but the link did not go anywhere. Mr. Kloos said he would fix that but would send a link to Mr. Spardone separately.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:51 PM.

Minutes recorded by:



Recording Secretary

**Received by email on 05/20/2022 @ 3:58 P.M.**

**by Tricia Quinn Assistant Town Clerk, New Fairfield**