



**Town of New Fairfield
4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, Connecticut**



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 17, 2023**

Present: Myke Furhman
James Kloos
Greg Manning
Michael Kiviat
Also Present: Evan White, Zoning Enforcement Officer
Khris Hall, Board of Selectmen

Call to Order

Mr. Furhman called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Public Comment & Participation

There were none.

Correspondence & Announcements

Mr. Furhman said there is still a vacant spot on the EDC.

OLD BUSINESS

Signs Update

I. Directional to Business District

Mr. Manning said he has bids for the different iterations for the signs and would like to move to either the next meeting or a special meeting with the full EDC membership present to vote. He said the EDC would have to work with Public Works on installation and he has already spoken with Zoning in general about the signs.

EDC Commission Participation in upcoming New Fairfield Events

Mr. Furhman said Kathleen DiTullio is working with the Town on the Earth Day project so this will be tabled until the next meeting.

ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants

Mr. Furhman said the application has been completed with the subcommittee members of Mark Werner, Mr. Manning and himself.

EDC Sponsored Activities

I. 2023 Business Happy Hour Events – March 2, 2023

Mr. Furhman said Mr. Kloos is working on this so they will have to discuss when he gets on the Zoom.

Adopt A Spot

Mr. Fuhman said they would table this until Ms. DiTullio could be present.

Spring Home Show

Mr. Fuhman suggested this be added to the special meeting agenda along with the signs.

Spring Pop Up Shop

Mr. Kiviat said he spoken to the folks at the library and there are no available Saturdays until April though they suggested the Senior Center as an alternative. Mr. Fuhman felt that the Home Show should be done in Q1 with this being moved to Q2.

Mr. Kloos and Selectwoman Hall arrived at 7:14 pm.

Broadband Feasibility Study for New Fairfield

Ms. Hall said the Town has an opportunity to work with WestCOG on a feasibility study to bring broadband to New Fairfield as a municipal utility. The study would cost \$45,000 of which New Fairfield would be responsible for \$2,500. The study would include a field level design and inventory of parcels and costs to bring broadband to Town. East Haddam is already well underway on their study and Ridgefield is a couple of weeks ahead of New Fairfield. She said the costs of the broadband would be covered by user fees and would not come out of the tax base. She said all parts of the process would be laid out in the feasibility study including stringing the lines, maintenance and repairs, etc. The idea of the study is to gauge the interest in the service and so they need participation in a survey being prepared and they need to see bills for both commercial and residential users.

Mr. Kloos said this is a win-win for the Town and he will be working on sending this out with an EDC newsletter for participation. He said there is no increase in taxes and no subsidy from the Town. The speed and reliability will be increased and this could be an economic development tool to foster innovation. Mr. Kloos said anyone submitting their bill can redact their personal information such as name and account number before submitting.

Mr. Fuhman suggested the broadband information should go as a standalone email versus a newsletter with other upcoming updates.

Approval of Minutes – December 20, 2022

Mr. Fuhman said the two people interested in joining the EDC had to withdraw because they did not qualify in terms of residency and did not withdraw their names.

Mr. Manning moved to approve the minutes with the edit noted, seconded by Mr. Fuhman and passed unanimously.

EDC Sponsored Activities

I. 2023 Business Happy Hour Events – March 2, 2023

Mr. Kloos said he would reach out to Biscotti's about hosting.

Spring Pop Up Shop

Mr. Fuhman said the library is not an option in March and suggested this be moved until Q2 and perhaps hosted at the senior center.

Mr. Kloos said he went to a similar type event at the senior center. He said hosting this in May or June might allow for tents outside to be set up.

Community Outreach as it Concerns Economic Development

A. Planning POCD

B. Zoning Regulation Updates

Mr. White said they are moving forward with interviewing firms to help with the Zoning regulation rewrites.

NEW BUSINESS

New and Prospective Businesses

Mr. White said there is a possibility of a virtual golf business moving into town.

Closing Public Comment

There were none.

Adjourn

*Mr. Furbman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 pm, seconded by Mr. Manning and passed unanimously.
Aye: Kloos, Manning, Kiviat, Furbman*

Minutes recorded by:



Recording Secretary

Received by email on 01/19/2023 @ 11:57 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield