



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



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2023**

Present: Myke Furhman
James Kloos
Mark Werner
Kathleen DiTullio
Greg Manning
Also Present: Evan White, Zoning Enforcement Officer

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Mr. Furhman followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Public Comment & Participation

Mr. White noted some of the new businesses in Town including a barber shop in Harry's Plaza; facial and day spa will be going in Bank of America building; and, the golf simulator business at 4 Dunham Drive.

Approve Minutes of April 17, 2023

Mr. Furhman moved to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023 as presented, seconded by Mr. Kloos and passed 4-0-1.

Aye: Furhman, Kloos, Werner, DiTullio

Abstain: Manning

Correspondence & Announcements

Ms. DiTullio said she has been handing out Adopt a Spot applications and using the EDC email. She asked Mr. Furhman to keep an eye for applications.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants

Mr. Furhman said the first two rounds of checks have been distributed and there is a third round ready to review. Mr. Furhman said they will have to check with Town Hall about non profit qualifications.

Mr. Manning said if you know a business owner let them know about the money.

Mr. White asked if they had to be brick and mortar businesses and Mr. Furhman said they did not, they only needed to be registered with the Town.

Signs Update

I. Directional to Business District

Mr. Manning said the signs are scheduled to be delivered this week and should be installed relatively quickly as they had previously chosen the locations.

II. Pedestrian signage

Mr. Kloos said they could pay attention to where people are walking this weekend with Sip & Stroll to see where signs might be needed.

I. Spring Home Show

Ms. DiTullio said Mr. Werner agreed to help with the organizing and said she would welcome others. Mr. Furhman said he would help as well. The goal is to hold this this fall.

II. Pop Up Shop

Mr. Kloos said he has been thinking about this event and how the town gets local vendors involved in various events such as New Fairfield Day, Earth Day, etc. He said maybe the EDC can work with Parks and Recreation on helping get vendors to the New Fairfield Day. Mr. Furhman suggested the EDC target its own Holiday Sing Along as the pop up with the pop up to be concluded before the Sing Along so participants can then come to that event.

Mr. Manning said they had seven vendors at Sing Along last year and they all seemed to do well. He said the EDC should discuss the logistics of a pop up event and where it would be held to keep the focus on the tree.

Mr. Furhman said the EDC should focus more on the fall home show as its next big event. Ms. DiTullio said she wanted to purchase some shop local lawn signs to place around Town. Mr. Furhman suggested she get a quote from the Godfather for some signs so they could purchase them before the end of this fiscal year. He also suggested getting a quote on Home Show signs for this budget.

Mr. Furhman asked that the Sing Along and the Pop Up shop be placed on the June agenda to begin discussing logistics of them together.

EDC Commission Participation in upcoming New Fairfield Events

I. Sip & Stroll

Ms. DiTullio reminded the members that she got the ingredients to make a mocktail sangria but she would need help handing them out from 4 pm until 8 pm on Saturday.

Mr. Kloos said he would be promoting Sip & Stroll, the Strawberry Festival and the new businesses coming to Town in the next newsletter.

Mr. White said he got word that there will be a holistic business moving into the Earthfit unit but that is still in the permitting process.

EDC Sponsored Activities

Restaurant Week/Weekend

Mr. Furhman said Mr. Kiviat had spoken to almost all the restaurant owners and they like the idea of a restaurant week or weekend but asked that it be done during a slower season such as Q1 - January to March.

Adopt A Spot

Ms. DiTullio said she got a good response at Earth Day and handed out a few applications. She suggested the EDC adopt the service signage area.

NEW BUSINESS

New and Prospective Businesses

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

Closing Public Comment

There were none.

Adjourn

Mr. Furhman moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm, seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen R. Badd".

Recording Secretary

Received by email on 05/18/2023 @ 1:55 p.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield