



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



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, July 17, 2023**

Present: James Kloos
Mark Werner
Kathleen DiTullio
Myke Furhman
Greg Manning
Mike Kiviat

Call to Order

Mr. Furhman called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Opening Public Comment & Participation

There were none.

Approve Minutes of June 20, 2023

Mr. Manning moved to approve the minutes of June 20, 2023, seconded by Mr. Kloos and passed 5-0-1.

Aye: Kloos, Manning, DiTullio, Werner, Kiviat

Abstain: Furhman

Correspondence & Announcements

Mr. Furhman reminded the members that there is an open seat on the Commission.

OLD BUSINESS

ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants

Mr. Furhman said the subcommittee met to review more grants and approved them for the Town to pay. He said the applications have begun to dwindle but there is still about \$55,000 left to grant. He asked if the Commission thought they should open up the application to non profits.

Ms. DiTullio asked for an example of a non profit that might qualify and Mr. Furhman an organization like Great Hollow that has camps and educational programs. He said the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance would have to approve of a change in criteria.

Mr. Manning said he checked what other municipalities were doing and it was a mix of some funding non profits and others not.

Mr. Manning suggested that the next EDC newsletter should say last call for ARPA grants for both for profit and not for profits.

Mr. Werner moved to approve including non profit organizations to apply for ARPA grants pending approval of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, seconded by Ms. DiTullio and passed unanimously.

Aye: Kloos, Manning, Werner, DiTullio, Furhman, Kiviat

EDC Sponsored Activities

I. Fall Home Expo

Mr. Furhman asked if the date and place were set and Ms. DiTullio said the EDC had agreed on the Sunday before Columbus Day and were still confirming the location.

The subcommittee of Mr. Furhman, Mr. Werner and Ms. DiTullio will meet to discuss marketing plans.

II. Holiday Carol Sing

Mr. Furhman asked if the commission had already chosen a date and it was decided the event would be December 9th. Mr. Kloos said he would reserve the gazebo.

III. Pop Up Shop

Mr. Furhman asked if the commission wanted to do the pop up the same day as the carol sing and Mr. Kloos suggested they should.

Mr. Kloos said he could see if the community room was open at the library for a pop up shop from 2 until 5 pm and then these vendors could move to the field if they wanted to.

Mr. Furhman said the vendors should set up on the field during the Carol sing versus having to set up in the library and then move to the field. He felt one event should be the primary focus of the EDC.

EDC Commission Participation in upcoming New Fairfield Events

Ms. DiTullio said she had reached out to Parks and Recreation about expanding businesses participating in New Fairfield Days. She said last year there were only 3 businesses participating and she felt the EDC could help get greater participation.

Mr. Furhman said this was not an EDC event but the commission could help get the word out.

Mr. Manning said the EDC should drive traffic to downtown and get as many people as possible into the downtown businesses.

NEW BUSINESS

New and Prospective Businesses

Mr. Furhman said all of the for rent signs are down from the old doctors office.

Ms. DiTullio said she stopped into the new aesthetic spa business and Twister Ice Cream to offer for EDC to help with a grand opening.

Closing Public Comment

There were none.

Adjournment

Mr. Furhman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 pm, seconded by Mr. Kloos and passed unanimously.

Aye: Kloos, Manning, Werner, DiTullio, Furhman, Kiviat

Minutes recorded by:

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

Recording Secretary

Received by email on 07/19/2023 @ 9:29 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield