



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

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, August 21, 2023**



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

1. Call to Order

Mr. Furhman called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Opening Public Comment & Participation

Catherine Kalema, a New Fairfield resident, has created a mango drink through her business. She has all the licenses and approvals to distribute through stores but other than C-Town she is having little luck getting her product in local stores. She said Stop and Shop does not take local products. She asked how she could get into local stores.

Mr. Furhman suggested she speak to Johnnys and Sherman IGA. Mr. Werner suggested she get a booth at New Fairfield Days.

4. Approve Minutes of July 17, 2023

Mr. Furhman moved to approve the minutes of July 17, 2023, seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously.

5. Correspondence & Announcements

Mr. Furhman said per a vote the commission had a while ago, a letter was drafted to be sent to the Selectmen to consider changing the commissions name from Economic Development to Economic and Community Development.

OLD BUSINESS

6. ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants

Mr. Furhman said the subcommittee forwarded the last round of approved applications including two non profits. He said there are 10 or 11 grants to distribute and suggested another round of awareness

Mr. Kloos said he could send a newsletter. Mr. Manning said the newsletter should say something such as last call to submit an ARPA application and the process takes about five minutes.

Mr. Furhman said there are various criteria including laying off employees, downsizing, etc.

Mr. Werner noted that even if the owners are the only employees or they received PPP money they can qualify for this grant.

7. EDC Sponsored Activities

I. Fall Home Expo

Mr. Furchman said they have a date and location. Ms. DiTullio said they need vendors, advertising and door prizes. Mr. Furchman said he would create a Facebook event.

II. Holiday Carol Sing/Pop Up Shop

Mr. Kloos said the Committee set the date of December 9th for the carol sing. He said they could set up a tent for the pop up shop and the food trucks could use the parking lot of Memorial Field.

Mr. Furchman suggested the pop up shop could start at 3 pm and the sing along can start at 5 pm.

Discussion included making sure there are garbage bins, heaters and lights from public works.

III. Business Owner Happy Hour

Mr. Kloos said it would be nice to have this Happy Hour at an outdoor patio. The thought was to have the event at Icahns either September 14th or 21st. Mr. Manning suggested the 14th because if any business owner had issues they could be invited to the meeting on Monday the 18th.

Mr. Furchman said the new golf space and office could host an event in the winter.

Mr. Kloos moved to approve a budget of \$300 for expenses associated with the Happy Hour for September 14th, seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously.

8. EDC Commission Participation in upcoming New Fairfield Events

I. NF Fair Day potential EDC sponsorship for NF Parks and Rec.

Mr. Kloos said Parks and Recreation had asked if EDC would consider sponsoring New Fairfield Day. Ms. DiTullio reminded the Committee that they had already agreed to rent an inflatable slide. She said there were some issues around that including the need for a generator. She said also the slide would require at least two people manning it and some of the commissioners were not available day off. She suggested maybe some kind of beanbag game instead.

Mr. Manning said cornhole has become very popular and maybe the Committee could purchase a couple of games and put the logo on the games.

Mr. Furchman moved to approve up to \$200 to purchase games and prizes for the New Fairfield Day, seconded by Mr. Manning and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

9. New and Prospective Businesses

Ms. Kalema said many start ups cannot afford the price of rent being asked for space in Town. Ms. DiTullio said the situation is getting better. Mr. Manning said negotiating rent is outside the purview of this group.

Mr. Furchman said the owner of Lenny's Barbershop in New Milford is interested in opening a shop in New Fairfield.

10. Closing Public Comment

Ms. DiTullio reminded committee members to complete the survey for the Planning Commission as they update the Plan of Conservation and Development.

Ms. DiTullio reminded all to Shop Local!

11. Adjournment

Mr. Furhman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm, seconded by Ms. DiTullio and passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Badd".

Recording Secretary

**Received by email on 8/23/2023 @ 9:50 a.m.
By Tricia Quinn, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield**