



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



**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024**

Present: Myke Furhman, Chair  
Greg Manning  
Kathleen DiTullio  
Jim Kloos  
Also Present: Evan White, Zoning Enforcement Officer  
Thomas Quigley, WPCA

Mr. Furhman called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Opening Public Comment & Participation**

Mr. White announced that New Fairfield had approved a wine bar in the Heritage Plaza. They will be ready to open once the renovations to fit are complete.

Mr. Quigley said the Water Pollution Control Authority approved the sewer project at its meeting in February. He said there will be 10,000 feet of line and the project will be phased in seven parts costing between \$20 to \$24 million. He said now it's time to get the Board of Selectmen on board.

**Approve Minutes of December 18, 2023**

*Ms. DiTullio moved to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Furhman and passed unanimously.  
Aye: DiTullio, Furhman, Manning, Kloos*

**Correspondence & Announcements**

There were none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**2024 EDC Initiatives**

Mr. Furhman said he had a conversation with the selectmen and they suggested EDC conduct another survey to find out what businesses want. The survey could also ask about the sewer project.

He said the EDC could recommend projects for the Town such as videos but they are not inexpensive.

Ms. DiTullio asked if the Commission could start redoing the videos it had done during the Covid shutdown. Mr. Furhman said they could but he did not have the time anymore to do them. The Town might consider hiring a videographer.

Ms. DiTullio said she wanted the commission to revisit the sign idea at the high school. Mr. Furhman said they had one other sign project too so asked that way-finding projects be added to the next agenda.

## **2024 Budget**

Mr. Furhman said he made a request to the Board of Selectmen to increase their budget by \$1,100 for any special meeting coverage and the addition of photography. The total request was for \$6,600.

## **OLD BUSINESS ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants**

Mr. Furhman said there are three new applications to discuss and about six more available.

### **EDC Sponsored Activities**

#### **I. Spring Home Expo**

Ms. DiTullio asked if anyone was getting positive feedback and Mr. Furhman said the feedback he had received was that the contractors are too busy right now to take the time to attend an expo. It was decided to take the Expo off the agenda for now.

#### **II. Business Owner Happy Hour**

Mr. Furhman suggested a March or April timeframe but said if The Office was going to host the Town could not provide alcohol. He suggested the Town Attorney should be consulted about the alcohol even at a restaurant.

Mr. Manning thanked Ms. DiTullio for her work on trying to get the Expo going and suggested when they host the happy hour event they ask businesses what they want the EDC to focus on.

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

Ms. DiTullio said she would like to do the mock tail again for the Sip & Stroll which is usually held in May.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Discussion and possible action on endorsing the draft Housing Affordability Plan**

Mr. Furhman suggested a special meeting to dive into the plan before endorsing it. Ms. DiTullio said the plan will go before the Board of Selectmen on March 14th. The suggestion for a special meeting was either March 4th at 5:30 or March 5th at 7 pm.

### **New Fairfield New Email Addresses – [Newfairfieldct.gov](mailto:Newfairfieldct.gov)**

Mr. Furhman advised those members who had not done so to switch their email accounts to the

newfairfieldct.gov.

### **New and Prospective Businesses**

Mr. White said there is a potential high end restaurant that might be interested in moving to New Fairfield.

### **Closing Public Comments**

There were none.

### **Adjournment**

*Ms. DiTullio moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm, seconded by Mr. Manning and passed unanimously.*

*Aye: DiTullio, Furlman, Manning, Kloos*

Minutes recorded by:

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

Recording Secretary

Received by email on 02/22/2024 @ 8:30 a.m.  
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield