



Town of New Fairfield

4 Brush Hill Road
New Fairfield, CT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Monday, July 15, 2024



Present: Greg Manning
Kathleen DiTullio
Mark Werner
Michael Kiviat\

Call to Order

Mr. Manning called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Opening Public Comment & Participation

Jennifer Pappas, a New Fairfield resident, said she was just listening in as she was not sure what the commission was responsible for.

Mary Ann Strattner, a Danbury resident and volunteer with the Sherman/New Fairfield Animal Shelter was seeking information on their ARPA request. Mr. Manning said they were having some technical issues with opening the application but hoped to resolve them soon.

Approve Minutes of March 4, 2024 and notes from April 15, May 20, and June 17 2024 meetings

*Ms. DiTullio moved to accept the minutes of March 4, and the notes from April 15, May 20 and June 17, seconded by Mr. Werner and passed unanimously.
Aye: Manning, DiTullio, Werner, Kiviat*

Correspondence & Announcements

Mr. Manning reminded all to check their New Fairfield emails. He also said the ARPA money for small businesses is coming down to the end so if any commissioner knows a business that would qualify now is the time.

Mr. Werner said the Town is looking to reallocate leftover money to other projects.

OLD BUSINESS

2024 EDC Initiatives Update

Mr. Manning said the commission usually participated in the Halloween trick or treating and Christmas activities. Ms. DiTullio said they also participate in New Fairfield days.

ARPA Funding Update/Small Business Grants

Covered in correspondence.

EDC Sponsored Activities

- I. Business Owner Happy Hour**
- II. Restaurant Day/Weekend/Week**

Mr. Manning suggested maybe a September or October timeframe and perhaps using that opportunity to get feedback from restaurants about a restaurant week or day.

Mr. Kiviat said he had spoken to a couple of restaurant owners and they felt February would be a good time for some kind of restaurant event.

EDC Participation in upcoming New Fairfield Events

Mr. Manning said the commission needs to discuss the carol sing in terms of getting more businesses involved otherwise it's more of a parks and recreation type event. He said the commissions mission when started was to draw more foot traffic to the downtown business district.

Ms. DiTullio noted some of the Parks and Recreation events draw people downtown including the Sip & Stroll and the trick or treating event.

Mr. Manning suggested at the next meeting the commission members need to discuss the future of the carol sing.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of EDC Newsletter status

Mr. Manning said he would take on the newsletter with the plan to get it out quarterly. Ms. DiTullio said she had spoken to James Kloos who had produced the newsletter prior and he was still happy to help out with it.

Mr. Werner suggested maybe a spot in the Town newsletter and Mr. Manning said that was not a bad suggestion but the two demographics might be different in terms of one going to residents and one going to businesses.

Election of Vice Chair to replace James Kloos

*Ms. DiTullio moved to nominate Mr. Manning to be the Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Kiviat and passed unanimously.
Aye: Manning, Werner, DiTullio, Kiviat*

Mr. Manning said the commission has a good core group and needs to fill at least one open seat if John Apple takes the appointment and attends meetings

New and Prospective Businesses

Mr. Manning said Evan White had to attend a Zoning meeting so he could not make the meeting but Mr. Manning said as a commercial real estate lender he is aware of some sites are changing hands soon so there might be some improvements made to the properties in the downtown area.

Mr. Werner asked if the wine and charcuterie shop was open yet and Ms. DiTullio said she had not seen any activity there recently. Mr. Manning suggested if they see that it opens the group should go and visit.

Ms. DiTullio said there has been some activity at the old 440 and she also asked if there was any update to the sewer plan.

Closing Public Comment

There were none.

Adjournment

*Mr. Manning moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:44 pm, seconded by Ms. DiTullio and passed unanimously.
Aye: Manning, Werner, DiTullio, Kiviat*

Minutes recorded by:



Recording Secretary

Received by email on 07/17/2024 @ 9:46 a.m.
by Chrystie M. Bontempo, Asst. Town Clerk, New Fairfield