

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FINAL – MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 6, 2020**

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on February 6 at 8:00 a.m. in the 1st Floor Conference Room, Sullivan Independence Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Lesko; Don Peterson; John Slavin, Steve Rosato; Rishi Narang

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Beverly Balaz, Fairfield Chamber of Commerce; Daphne Dixon, Executive Director, Live Green Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of January 9, 2020 were approved.

Guest Speaker; Daphne Dixon, Executive Director, Live Green, EV Readiness Study Final Results

Ms. Dixon reviewed the highlights and recommendations of the EV Readiness Study Report conducted by Live Green with funding from UI. Ms. Dixon commented on a recent survey that found that environmental protection was of greater importance than economic growth. Ms. Dixon noted that a statewide meeting for fleet directors on EV readiness is planned for March 5. She indicated that there will likely be funding opportunities through the VW emission settlement monies to facilitate EV infrastructure. She is also looking to encourage the installation of workplace chargers. Mr. Barnhart said Kleban Developers and Trademark have installed chargers that are being used regularly. Mr. Barnhart indicated that he would post both the presentation and the final EV Readiness Study to the EDC portion of the Town’s website and forward a link to the Commission. Ms. Dixon expressed hope that the EDC would take part in an interdepartmental task force to bring greater awareness to this issue.

2021 Budget

Mr. Barnhart met recently with First Selectwoman Kupchick to discuss goals for the Community and Economic Development Department. He anticipates that additional resources will be forthcoming to help the Department realize those goals.

Update on Key Development Sites

Mr. Barnhart said he submitted a letter to the TPZ on behalf of the EDC regarding the development of the Exide property. He expects to meet with the option holders in the near future although development of the property is still some time away. It is important that development plans for the site provide an economic benefit to the town.

A hearing will be held on the MetroCenter development on February 11. Current plans call for a hotel and mixed use (retail, office, residential).

The developers of the Plant Factory site have asked TPZ for a change in use to residential. Conservation has determined that this change would require a new application and public hearing. The applicants have provided notice of their intent to appeal this decision.

Mr. Barnhart indicated that no application has been filed regarding the Mill Hill Terrace site, which is reportedly being considered for an assisted living facility.

The property comprising the Joe's American Bar and Grille is on the market as a lease or sale/redevelopment opportunity.

Community Development Block Grant Program

Mr. Barnhart reminded the Commission of plans to hold a public workshop as part of its March 5th meeting to discuss community development needs and use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to further economic development.

Other Business

Ms. Balaz said the Chamber will hold its Health and Wellness Expo on March 14th at Fairfield University. The Chamber is also hoping to have a breakfast event on March 30th at the Brooklawn Country Club, at which Governor Lamont is expected to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Goethner