

**TOWN OF FAIRFIELD
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FINAL – MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 4, 2020**

The Economic Development Commission of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting via Teleconference on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Peterson; Alethe Fatherley

ALSO PRESENT: Mark Barnhart, Director of Community and Economic Development; Beverly Balaz, Fairfield Chamber of Commerce

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of March 5, 2020 and May 7, 2020 was deferred due to lack of a quorum.

Update on COVID-19: Response and Reopening Plan

Mr. Barnhart referred to the work of the task force convened by Selectwoman Kupchick to evaluate the impact of the state guidelines re: COVID-19. The group reviewed the regulations regarding restaurant service (under Phase I) and made adjustments to facilitate outdoor dining. Thirty-four locations were approved, 18 of them for new locations.

Phase II will include guidelines for indoor dining, gyms, movie theaters etc. Mr. Barnhart said he had a teleconference with fitness providers to discuss with them plans for their re-opening and any concerns that they may have.

Mr. Barnhart said he plans to communicate with other businesses and industries in Fairfield to ask if there are ways the town may be of help to them going forward.

Update on Key Development Sites

Mr. Barnhart said he is working with the developers of the Exide property to secure a meeting with Selectwoman Kupchick to discuss possible plans for the property.

Calendar additions: Make Music Day, June 21, 2020; Farmers' Market, opening June 28, 2020.

Other Business

Mr. Barnhart said the Stratfield Village Improvement project is progressing. Preliminary design work has been completed. Construction should commence in 2021. His department has applied to the state for an extension of funding for the work.

Ms. Balaz asked if the scheduled sidewalk sale would take place in July. Mr. Barnhart said that he intends to, provided that it is not inconsistent with state guidelines regarding outdoor events.

Ms. Fatherley asked what plans the town has in place for testing for the virus. Mr. Barnhart said there are several sites in town for the testing, but that a doctor's recommendation is necessary.

Ms. Fatherley mentioned a group, Courageous Conversations that meets regularly to address the issue of race relations/diversity and increase understanding in the community of pertinent issues. She offered to share a resource list with the EDC.

Mr. Peterson questioned the current public hearing process used by the P & Z. Mr. Peterson stated that it was difficult for the public to fully participate in the public hearing. Mr. Barnhart acknowledged that the format was not optimal and said that the P & Z was aware of the situation and was seeking alternative solutions.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gretchen Goethner

You can obtain the audio recording of the meeting here,
<https://fairfieldct.org/meetingrecordings>.