



TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority
MEETING MINUTES

**The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Meeting on March 25, 2024
in the Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center, 6 Primrose St, Newtown, CT 06470**

These minutes are subject to the approval of the FHA at their next meeting.

Present: Ross Carley, Brook Clark, James Landy, Terry Sagedy, Justin Molito

Absent: Melissa Beylouni, Michael Holmes, Anthony Filiato

Public Attendance: none

Also Present: Kim Chiappetta – Economic & Community Development and Fairfield Hills Coordinator (clerk)

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Public Participation: None.

Acceptance of Minutes

Chair Ross Carley asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the meeting held on January 26, 2023. Terry Sagedy entertained. James Landy seconded and all were in favor.

Chairman's Report

Chairman Ross Carley began by updating the Commission on the NPS Historic Designation application. Ross and Kim, along with the Chair of the EDC, Jeffrey Robinson, First Selectman, Jeff Capeci, and State Representatives Mitch Bolinsky and Marty Foncello attended the State Historic Preservation Review Board meeting in support of the application. The Board approved the application with some updates. Once the updates have been made by the developer's consultant, the application will be submitted to the National Parks Service. Ross noted that during the meeting, an attorney from the 2nd Governors Horse Guard was in attendance expressing concerns with the Historic Designation and the impact on a progressing project.

Ross asked Kim for a status update on the campus no parking signs. Kim explained that last she was aware, the standard no parking signs were going back up.

Ross then reported that the Town will be looking into the possibility of a grant for the remediation and replacement of the duplex roofs. The Town has been approached by business owners interested in the campus and the size of these buildings would be suitable for smaller businesses. Ross has already walked through the duplexes with the contractor currently replacing the Municipal Center roof who will be providing a quote.

New Business:

Request to the First Selectman's office to determine actions that can be taken against trespassers in vacant campus buildings:

Chairman Carley explained to the group that while walking through the duplexes he noticed extensive damage to the insides since the last time he had walked through. Doors have been pulled off of the hinges, glass has been broken and stair balusters have been kicked out.

Ross asked the Authority for their thoughts on petitioning the First Selectman to address a letter to the Police Commission regarding what can be done to hold vandals accountable. The group discussed installing signs at the entrances of the campus and periodic police presence as a deterrent. Members also discussed video surveillance but recognized that vandals often wear masks. Guidance will be needed from the Police Commission regarding what can be done. Authority members volunteered to attend a Police Commission meeting. Terry Sagedy offered to draft the letter that will be forwarded to the First Selectman.

Ross asked for a motion. James Landy motioned to have a letter created. Brook Clark seconded and all were in favor.

Campus Garden Sign:

Kim Chiappetta presented to the group a draft yard sign that would be placed in the area of the Municipal Center Gathering space asking walkers to please curb their dogs. Kim explained that this garden area has numerous tulip bulbs planted in remembrance of the former Tax Collector, Donna Saputo and someone had observed a walker allowing their dogs to dig in the garden. Terry recommended that the sign be more plain and straight forward so that it will be read by passersby.

Member Updates:

Ross expressed his appreciation of everyone in attendance, and noted the importance of the Authority with many upcoming projects.

Ross asked Brook for an update on the gathering space gardens. Brook updated the group that a plan has been developed which includes locations for benches, picnic tables and plantings. The committee has consulted with a landscape contractor to see what is feasible.

Ross asked Authority members to familiarize themselves with pervious paving as this may be used for future paving on the campus. This type of paving allows water to pass through into the ground beneath, so it does not require the installation of drainage as would typical paving. In addition, this type of paving will help with the problem of water infiltration into the buildings. Brook noted that sand cannot be used on these surfaces in the winter because the sand will block the drainage.

Ross also asked the Authority to consider additional charging stations on the campus. Justin Molito noted that there are grants available through the Inflation Reduction Act for municipalities interested in electric charging stations. Ross asked Justin if he could share this information.

Ross asked Justin for an update on the Friends of Fairfield Hills social media. Justin said that the Facebook page does not have much posted. Ross encouraged the group to post about the campus on this page

Staff Update:

No update.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Terry Sagedy motioned to adjourn, James Landy seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Kimberly Chiappetta, Clerk.

A recording of the meeting is available by contacting Kimberly.Chiappetta@newtown-ct.gov