

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, August 15, 2012 at the Cyrenius Booth Library, 25 Main Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

These Minutes are subject to the approval of the Fairfield Hills Authority.

Jim Bernardi called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

Present: Jim Bernardi, Tom Connors, John Madzula, Renata Adler and Mike Holmes.

Not Present: Brian White, Andy Willie and Ross Carley.

Also Present: Elizabeth Stocker, Donald Sharpe, Walter Motyka, Marjorie Cramer, Mary Gaudet-Wilson, Abigail Adams, and Bruce Herring. No members of the press were present.

Public Participation: Marjorie Cramer and Mary Gaudet-Wilson, members of the Conservation Commission, presented a request for the approval of an installation of two kiosks at Fairfield Hills. The kiosks would be placed on either end of the walking trail and will contain information on the removal of Japanese Barberry on campus as well as educational information on invasive plants. Ms. Cramer explained that there are scientific studies connecting Japanese Barberry with ticks. Pictures of a kiosk at Orchard Hill Nature Preserve were handed out to provide an example of the type of kiosk they will use. John Madzula felt this type of kiosk is appropriate for the campus. He will walk with the Conservation Commissioners to view their proposed locations.

Members of the Authority asked questions about invasives and details of the structures. Jim Bernardi first asked for a motion about the removal of the Japanese Barberry. John Madzula motioned that the Fairfield Hills Authority approves the removal of the Japanese Barberry, contingent upon there being no expenditure from the Fairfield Hills Authority's budget. Renata Adler seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Then, for a motion regarding the kiosks, Mike Holmes motioned that the Fairfield Hills Authority approve the request for the placement of two kiosks (for the purpose of public education of invasive species, including Japanese Barberry) at each end of the trail on the Fairfield Hills campus, subject to the approval of the location by a member of the Authority. Tom Connors seconded the motion. All members were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

Acceptance of Minutes: John Madzula motioned to accept the minutes from the July 13, 2012 meeting. Renata Adler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as written.

Chairman: Jim Bernardi opened discussion regarding Woodbury Hall. He explained an expenditure that he needed to authorize for the cost of removing the porch. The cost will be between \$8,000 and \$9,000 and will need to come out of the Fairfield Hills Authority's budget. He also shared concerns over the safety of some of the buildings on campus.

The board continued a discussion regarding the streamlining of permitting activity. At that point Don Sharpe (Co-Chair of the Economic Development Commission) and Walter Motyka (previous member of the Fairfield Hills Authority) commenced discussion with regard to their strategy on raising more tax revenues and how it applies to buildings that might be leased on campus. All members of the board shared their concerns over the Town's vision and a vigorous discussion ensued.

NYA – Campus Maintenance: Jim Bernardi said there was a bee problem with the mailbox that has been taken care of. Ms. Stocker explained that there are two positions currently open (Property Manager and Administrative Assistant). She has received several resumes already and is hoping to have an Administrative Assistant on board by November.

Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association Building Project - Abigail Adams, Registered Landscape Architect with CCA, presented a landscaping plan for the ambulance site at Fairfield Hills. She said the plans were also presented to George Benson and Rob Sibley from the Land Use Agency. The board thanked her for the presentation.

Final Year-End (FY 11-12) Budget Re-appropriations – Jim Bernardi opened discussion of the re-appropriations and noted that \$12,000 was encumbered to get the certificate for the soil remediation. This project is underway. Parks and Rec. is handling the installation of the dog clean-up stations. Ms. Stocker explained that the EPA Brownfield grant will be used to clean up the eight single family homes on campus. She said these homes are slated for demolition.

Ms. Stocker Liz said the contract is signed for the \$400,000 Streetscape Grant. There's a thumbs up to go forward on that this week. Fred Hurley will be involved in doing the parking lot near the ambulance and there are also some sidewalks and street lamps that will be installed.

Renata Adler asked Ms. Stocker if the Natural Resources Defense Council would be interested in assisting with funding. Ms. Stocker explained that the next round of EPA grants should be coming out next week.

Other: The First Selectman requested a recommendation by the board on the placement on safety fencing around buildings. Jim Bernardi walked the campus and explained to the board areas where he feels the fencing should go. Everyone agreed that Mr. Bernardi's recommendations can be brought to the First Selectman's attention.

Finance: Jim Bernardi opened discussion regarding the upcoming Budget Request/CIP. Brian White will be asked if he can assist Ms. Stocker with this.

John Madzula motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tom Connors. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.