

**The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2013 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 7:10 PM.

**Present:** Jim Bernardi, Michael Holmes, Renata Adler, Thomas Connors, John Madzula, Ross Carley, Andrew Willie and Brian White.

**Also Present:** Elizabeth Stocker, Director of Economic and Community Development; George Benson, Director of Land Use and Ed Marks, Chairperson, Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission. Some members of the public and one member of the press were also present.

**A moment of silence** was held to honor the victims of the Sandy Hook tragedy of December 14, 2012.

**Public Participation:** None

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** **Brian White** made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 16, 2013 meeting. John Madzula seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes were approved as written.

**John Norwell**, 15 Taunton Ridge Road, representing the **Newtown Alumni Association, Inc.**, spoke regarding work that the NAA has done in contacting representatives of the EPA and Brownfields agencies. They are working to investigate what grants might be available to help fund the cleansing / demolition of buildings at Fairfield Hills. He has also spoken with Elizabeth Stocker regarding the efforts in this area. The NAA will continue to speak with individuals and agencies regarding these grants and opportunities.

The NAA has also been in touch with Travis Fulton, a water and stone sculptor and Laurel Rock Company regarding the possibility of designing a memorial site to honor those lost on 12/14.

**Jim Bernardi** stressed that those directly affected by 12/14 are of key concern in any future plans for a memorial, etc at Fairfield Hills. He expects that the town's elected officials will come up with a global plan for a memorial going forward. The FHA is very interested in hearing proposals, and is committed to have the proposals mesh with the needs of those most directly impacted. Mr. Bernardi also stated that the safety of people is more important to the FHA than how the master plan might be affected.

**George Benson**, Director of Land Use, stated that requests and ideas for plans for any projects in response to 12/14 should be filtered through Elizabeth Stocker and him. **John Madzula, Ross Carley and Michael Holmes** will represent the FHA in these discussions.

**Peter D'Amico** – representing the **Newtown Youth Academy** presented a plan for Fairfield Hills. This proposal would require demolishing the majority of buildings at Fairfield Hills. The plan incorporates a variety of different uses that could complement each other and drive traffic to the campus.

**Edward Marks**, Chairperson Newtown Parks and Recreation Commission, stated that the commission was very involved in the creation of the current FH Master Plan and wants to be part of the process of any new plans that are created to ensure the desires of the P&R are heard.

**Kristin Chiriatti**, representing **Everwonder Children's Museum** presented plans for the museum. Kristin needs a commitment from the FHA or town for the museum donors to see that the museum has access to the proposed building site. **Jim Bernardi** said that there will be a vote at the March 20, 2013 FHA meeting to reserve Plymouth Hall and the immediate environs for development of the Children's Museum. Renata Adler voiced her opposition to the museum.

**Elizabeth Stocker** gave an update on current projects associated with Fairfield Hills.

A commercial proposal has been received from Ann Rennahan for a Mental Health Resource Center. This would be an educational facility which would reuse Cochran to train mental health professionals. The next step is to invite this group in to talk about the project in greater detail.

**Jim Bernardi** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 PM. **Ross Carley** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.