

**The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 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 7:07 PM.

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

**Absent:** John Madzula and Andrew Willie

**Also Present:** Elizabeth Stocker, Director of Economic and Community Development; Bruce Herring, Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association; Fran Pennarola, Secretary – Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association; and Kristin Chiriatti, President EverWonder (everw?nder) Children’s Museum. 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 Hearing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Cleanup Grant; Danbury Hall and eight single family houses**

The Chairman opened the public hearing with a brief introduction and asked Ms. Stocker to provide additional details. **Elizabeth Stocker** stated that the Town is the recipient of a \$200,000 EPA cleanup grant and that Danbury Hall and the eight single family homes will be cleared of all hazardous materials to ready them for demolition. The town is providing the required 20% match utilizing in kind contributions to the greatest extent possible. Ms. Stocker stated that an information repository has been set up for the project at her office in the Newtown Municipal Center. As the project proceeds documents and reports will be posted on [www.Fairfield Hills.org](http://www.FairfieldHills.org).

**Ms. Stocker** introduced **Kimberly Clarke**, LEP, Owner - Eolas Environmental, LLC, New Hartford, CT. Ms. Clarke was selected to serve as the Licensed Environmental Professional overseeing this project.

**Ms. Clarke** spoke about the specifics of the project. The cleanup of the buildings will be coordinated with the demolition of Danbury Hall, slated to begin in F’13-’14. Mr. Connors asked about the material assessments. Ms. Stocker said that documentation of hazardous materials in three of the houses was made available by the NVAA. **Ms. Clarke** then described the sampling of materials within buildings. Testing and laboratory analysis will take one to two weeks and the abatement work typically takes four to six weeks.

Mr. Connors asked about public safety to which **Ms. Clarke** responded that fencing and signs will be installed to keep the public at a safe distance from the project. Work is not expected to interfere with activities taking place upon the campus however we do not want the public too close to the work area.

Mr. Bernardi asked if the cleanup could be completed within the budget. **Ms. Clarke** responded that we will try to stay within the allotted grant money. Tom Connors asked if the basements and foundations will be removed or buried. **Ms. Clarke** responded that this would be a town decision. **Ross Carley**

offered that building plans and assessment documentation is in the engineer's building and that he would look for materials pertaining to the subject buildings.

The Chairman asked if members had further questions, hearing none, he then opened the meeting to the public. No one from the public had any comments. The Chairman then stated that he would continue the Public Hearing to the April 17<sup>th</sup> FHA meeting to allow for additional public comment.

**Public Participation:** None

**Acceptance of the Minutes:** **Renata Adler** motioned to amend the minutes of the February 20, 2013 meeting to include the presentation of a semi-pro soccer stadium in Peter D'Amico's Fairfield Hills campus plan. **Jim Bernardi** seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

After discussion initiated by **Renata Adler** regarding the use of "Everwonder" (Children's Museum) in the minutes, **Ross Carley** motioned to amend all past minutes to reflect the exact spelling of "everwonder". **Brian White** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Director of Economic and Community Development Report:** **Elizabeth Stocker** gave updates on:

**Mental Health Institute:** **Ms. Stocker** reported on a meeting that was held on March 18 with a group proposing a mental health institute at Fairfield Hills. This proposal is in the very preliminary stages and needs further development.

**Newtown Volunteer Ambulance Association update:** **Fran Pennarola – Secretary NVAA** – Said that the lease is for 99 years at \$1 / year, that the NVAA has a favorable loan to value ratio and the project has been planned with the future growth of the town in mind. Mr. Pennarola noted that the Board of Selectmen would hold a public hearing before they acted upon the lease.

**Michael Holmes** suggested removing "usage charges" from page 15, section 25.5 of the lease. Members agreed that this amendment would be recommended.

**Ross Carley** motioned to recommend the lease as amended to the Board of Selectmen. **Michael Holmes** seconded the motion. The motion passed with five in favor, no one opposed. **Brian White** abstained from the vote.

**Everwonder (everwonder) Children's Museum:** **Jim Bernardi** stated that the FHA action has been taken and that with the exception of **Renata Adler**, the FHA is in favor of the museum project. Mr. Bernardi requested **Kristin Chirriati** to report back to the FHA every couple months with updates on the museum and the fundraising efforts. **Ms. Chirriati** said that the museum is opening a temporary location on April 6, 2013 at 31 Peck's Lane. She said that this would be a small-scale, accurate reflection of what the museum would be like and said that everyone is welcome to the location. **Ms. Chirriati** said museum representatives would be going back to possible donors they had spoken with prior to December, now that they have Plymouth Hall reserved for their use.

**Renata Adler** said that she did not think that first responders should have to pay to attend the Everwonder (everwonder) event being held at Fenway Park. **Kristin Chirriati** said that although she is not in charge of this event, she thought it was a good suggestion and would pass this information along to those organizing the event.

**Victory Garden update:** Elizabeth Stocker said that the Victory Garden will be in a new location this year. She noted that choosing a permanent location that would not have to be moved due to future construction projects, would be a good idea. **Jim Bernardi** said that he thought garden should continue.

**Parent Connection project:** **Ms. Stocker** said that representatives from the Parent Connection will attend the May FHA meeting to give an update on their proposed use of a duplex building at Fairfield Hills.

**Ross Carley** motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. **Michael Holmes** seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.