

**The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 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 7:02 PM.

**Present:** Jim Bernardi, Michael Holmes, Renata Adler, Thomas Connors and Ross Carley. **Absent:** Brian White and Andrew Willie; **Also Present:** Terry Sagedy (Newtown Cultural Arts Festival); Dorrie Carolan and Jim Maguire from the Newtown Parent Connection; and one member of the press.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**Newtown Cultural Arts Festival** – Terry Sagedy, Chairman of the Newtown Cultural Arts Festival, was present to discuss their event scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be on the soccer field, the same space it had last year. There will be between 70 and 90 Artists booths, food vendors and three stages with a variety of activities. A majority of parking will be at the Reed School with some parking near Woodbury Hall and handicapped parking near the Municipal Center. They will be responsible for retaining Police, Ambulance and the Fire Department. He noted that last year they had about 5,500 attendees with approximately 200 volunteers. They expect attendance this year to be between 8,000 and 10,000. There may be a slight increase in the amount of booths.

Mr. Connors asked if there will be anything connected to the 12/14 tragedy. Mr. Sagedy said the Cultural Arts Commission was charged with fielding all the incoming requests and offers of monuments, etc., and his initial thought was they did not want to focus on the tragedy, but do expect to have a commemorative moment of silence and that some collections from “Healing Newtown (through the arts)” may be incorporated. They firmly believe it should be a joyous event but anything pertaining to the 12/14 tragedy would, of course, be reverent.

**The Parent Connection** – Mr. Bernardi opened discussed regarding the Parent Connection’s interest to lease a building in Washington Square. A \$500,000 grant was approved to metro fit one of the buildings. They will turn a duplex into a single unit. Dorrie Carolan, President of the Newtown Parent Connection, and Jim Maguire, on their Board of Directors, were present. Ms. Carolan explained their group as a grassroots organization established to address problems of substance abuse in the community. Their main objective is to educate and assist parents and/or family members of those struggling with addiction. They expect in the future to become more engaged in the mental health forum. Their attorney will be contacting Atty. Grogins to go over specifics of the lease. It will then be brought forth to the Fairfield Hills Authority for approval and sent to the Board of Selectmen, Finance and Legislative Council. Mr. Bernardi thanked Ms. Carolan and Mr. Maguire for attending

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** – Mr. Holmes motioned to accept the minutes of April 24, 2013 as written and seconded by Mr. Carley. The motion passed unanimously.

**Danbury Hall / Single Family Houses Demolition Project Management Update** – Mr. Bernardi opened discussion regarding the EPA Cleanup Grant of \$200,000 appropriated for the demolition of Danbury Hall and the eight single family dwellings. In speaking with the Town’s attorney, Dave Grogins, Mr. Bernardi said Fred Hurley (Director of Public Works) and Bob Mitchell (Chair of the Public Building and Site Commission) will accept responsibility of Project Manager. They will take care of the RFP and retain

a general contractor. Reports to the Authority will be on a periodic basis. Since there was a motion at a previous meeting to create a subcommittee that is no longer necessary, Mr. Bernardi motioned to rescind the need for a subcommittee to oversee this project. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carley and passed by all in attendance.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Victory Garden – Mr. Bernardi said there was a nice article in the Bee on the Victory Garden. The location of the garden will be moved to accommodate the incoming Ambulance Garage. It was noted that water service for the garden will cost approximately \$3,000 to \$3,500. The board has not received a formal request for the funds as yet but Mr. Bernardi said there is some money in the budget to help with this.

Upcoming Campus Events – Mr. Bernardi reviewed the list of upcoming campus events including the Dynamos “Meet and Greet” on May 17<sup>th</sup> and Parks and Rec.’s events including: Strut your Mutt (5/18), Mad Dash (6/8) and the Rooster Run (6/15).

Remediation Update: Mr. Bernardi said that Russell Bartley is working on certifying that the campus is now free of contaminants.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Barberry Removal – Mr. Bernardi stated that Phase 2 of the Barberry removal project on Fairfield Hills will be postponed until the plants grow a little more. The Conservation Commission said the plants need to be a little taller in order to remove them properly. Funds have been reserved to pay for this.

Budget Update – Mr. Bernardi asked the board to think about projects on campus to fund, the dog stations were mentioned. Mr. Carley felt it would be beneficial (to the demolition crew) if specs and plans on Danbury Hall and the houses being removed were gathered. He will look in the old files but may need to go to the DOT in Hartford, which may incur copying expenses. He will speak with Fred Hurley first to see what he has.

The board then discussed allocating funds from the budget towards something that is universally used by event planners. Some ideas raised concerns over liability, i.e., golf carts, tents, etc. Other ideas included directional signage, safety vests, water, and electrical. Mr. Sagedy was asked, as a vendor, what he felt would be beneficial. He discussed the above mentioned items but then suggested that a marquee for the property, visible from Wasserman Way, would help publicize upcoming events. Mr. Carley will discuss sign regulations with George Benson. This will be added to the next agenda.

Membership – Mr. Bernardi asked the board members to check their appointment terms.

**ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Carley motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 PM. Michael Holmes seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Tammy Hazen