

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 26, 2015 in Council Chambers at the Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

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

Present: Thomas Connors, Jim Bernardi, Ross Carley, Andrew Willie, Curt Verdi, Renata Adler and Phil Clark

Absent: Terry Sagedy

Also Present: George Benson, Director of Planning; Christal Preszler, Grants Coordinator, Planning Department; two members of the press.

Tom Connors called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. **Minutes: September 28, 2015:** Tom Connors asked that the minutes regarding the water fountains from last month read "At the request of the FHA Chairman, Amy Mangold and Carl Samuelson discussed options for designs and locations of water fountains and a pet water dispenser as added amenities at FH." Andy Willie made the motion, Jim Bernardi seconded it and it passed unanimously.
2. **Public Participation :**
None
3. **Fairfield Hills Staff Update (Preszler):**
 - a. **CIP Projects:** The single family houses and greenhouse are almost all down. The site will be leveled, top soiled and seeded. Oil tanks are being removed. Bestech is the contractor and things are moving along smoothly. Duplex #63 has been remediated and is now being renovated for the Newtown Parent Connection under a DSS grant. Canaan House specs are being finalized and should be ready in the next month. Granite steps and some marble will be salvaged for a future use. Other salvage will be handled by the contractor hired to do the remediation and demo work. Ross Carley asked how salvage of other buildings will be handled. George Benson noted that each building will be evaluated individually.

Ross Carley asked about how tunnels will be addressed. Christal Preszler noted that the RFP will include an option for abating and collapsing the tunnels. If adequate funds exist, they will be addressed.
 - b. **Sidewalk project:** A grant is still outstanding regarding potential funding for the project.
 - c. **Plymouth Hall:** Funding for a structural assessment of the building may be applied for through VCOG if they are awarded a planning grant. Electrical is being run to the building for ongoing pumping of the basement.
 - d. **Budget:** Discussion took place regarding the funding that has been committed for projects at FH, including UST removal, streetscape / paving, water fountains and Plymouth Hall electrical.
 - e. **DECD Grant:** Buildings have been assessed. Reports need to be reviewed. Tunnel assessment may take place under the grant.

4. **Chairman's Report (Connors):**
 - a. **New Member introduction:** Phil Clark was appointed to the FHA and he is a welcomed addition. Ross Carley noted that a Democratic nominee was presented, but Phil, while a friend and good addition to the FHA, is a Republican.
 - b. **Community Center Presentation:** Tom Connors noted that he, George Benson and Christal Prezler presented to the NCCC. Parking, expansion of the facility were brought up at the NCCC meeting. Tom Connors noted that the FHA is looking forward to working with the NCCC for this important project on campus.
 - c. **2016 Meeting Dates:** Renata Adler motioned to accept the proposed meeting dates. Jim Bernardi seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - d. **Past Member Recognition:** Discussion took place as to how to recognize past members of the FHA. After much discussion, Ross Carley motioned to reserve up to \$300 to purchase a plaque to be hung at the Municipal Center to honor past members of the FHA. Andy Willie seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
 - e. **Discussion Regarding Lease Process:** The process and role of the FHA in the lease process were discussed. Details such as the letter of intent were discussed. Authority members will forward ideas for changes to the process to Christal Prezler who will then distribute them to the FHA.
 - f. **Fairfield Hills Budget:** Tom Connors noted that the FHA used to have a line item in the Town budget but no longer does. DPW and P&R are responsible for maintenance of the campus. Mr. Connors asked the FHA to think about defining the spending for the campus under one specific line item.
 - g. **Events:** Mr. Connors noted that events could become a source of revenue generation on campus in the future. Ross Carley reported on the great success of the REACH Car Show held in early October on campus in the area of Newtown and Woodbury Halls. 164 cars and a food vendor were present and a flag ceremony was held. Mr. Carley suggested that this area be looked at as an event venue. Christal Prezler asked that people consider numerous areas of campus including the area of the single family houses as possibilities for the event venue. This area will be cleared of the structures shortly and Norwalk Hall would be less expensive to demolish than Kent Hall. As Mr. Carley noted, this area of the campus has parking already and more could be created by demolishing Stamford Hall.
5. **Adjournment** –Jim Bernardi motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ross Carley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.