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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority

MINUTES

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on June 27, 2016 in Council Chambers, Newtown Municipal Center, 3 Primrose Street, Newtown CT 06470

These minutes are subject to the approval of the FHA at their next meeting.

Present: Thomas Connors, Ross Carley, Andrew Willie, James Bernardi

Also Present: Christal Preszler, Grants Coordinator, George Benson, Director of Planning, Georgia Contois, Clerk

Absent: Curt Verdi, Terry Sagedy, Renata Adler, Phil Clark

Without a quorum, the Authority opened a group discussion at 7:10pm.

CIP Priority Discussion:

Mr. Connors wanted the FHA to prioritize projects and commit to requests. Discussion included working with developers, eliminating blight, and renovating/demolishing buildings. Mr. Benson briefly discussed the walking trails (phase III), saying that the project is important but now isn't the right timing. Members agreed that continuing work on the trails would be putting 'the cart before the horse'. The main priorities for the next few years are: Demolition, Renovation/Remediation, Infrastructure needs, and creating an event venue. Members of the Authority brought up specific projects, however Ms. Preszler felt that the current categorization of the CIP funds was broad enough to encompass the work they want to see done on campus.

Staff Report:

Ms. Preszler first reminded the FHA that certain members' terms are up in July. They will need to be reappointed by the First Selectman in order to continue serving the Authority. Canaan House demolition is moving along well. Duplex #63 has nearly been completed. Ms. Preszler, Mr. Benson and Members all commended the beautiful work that has been done for the Newtown Parent Connection. There will be an Open House on July 25th at 6:00 pm. Ms. Preszler spoke of the Pre-Bid meeting for the STEAP Streetscape Grant. She gave a rough timeline; hoping that the design will be ready to bid out for construction in September. Depending on the weather conditions and timeliness, prep-work may begin this winter.

Future of FHA Discussion:

Mr. Connors wanted the Authority to verbalize their feelings on the duties and power of the FHA. He felt that due to the relevance of the Charter and Master Plan, the FHA cannot cover many situations, and defaults work to the Land Use Agency. Mr. Connors wanted to know if the group still felt there was relevance. Mr. Carley thought that the Community Center will bring traffic to

the campus and increase interest. Ms. Preszler thought that the Authority could be as relevant as the members wanted it to be. Ms. Preszler forecasted larger events, and thought there was marketing and PR that could be done. Present Members seemed invested in continuing and building the FHA.

Chairman's Report:

Mr. Connors wanted to thank Andrew Mangold and volunteers for their lovely work on the Fruit Trail. He is excited to see the plantings grow in and supply fruit. Mr. Connors also wanted to formally cancel the July FHA Meeting, to allow members to attend the Open House for Duplex #63.

Adjournment:

With no additional business, the meeting was informally adjourned at 8:00pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Contois, Clerk.*