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TOWN OF NEWTOWN
Fairfield Hills Authority

MINUTES

The Fairfield Hills Authority held a Regular Meeting on August 22, 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: Ross Carley (acting Chair), James Bernardi, Terry Sagedy, Renata Adler, Phil Clark

Also Present: Christal Preszler, Grants Coordinator, Georgia Contois, Clerk

Absent: Thomas Connors, Curt Verdi, Andy Willie

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm

Public Participation:

Jennifer Cebry of the Newtown Cultural Arts Commission (NCAC) spoke to the Authority about Plymouth Hall. The NCAC is interested in potentially using the building for a Cultural Arts Center. Ms. Cebry wanted to open discussion with the Authority to exchange opinions as the NCAC irons out some basic details. Mr. Clark, Mr. Carley and Mr. Bernardi all had a lot of information on the building to share. Mr. Carley suggested beginning the process with a letter of intent to formally open discussion and lay out a preliminary proposal.

Grove Area:

Mr. Carley recently discussed a possible project area with the Director of Public Works, Fred Hurley. He wanted to talk to the Authority about allowing DPW to remove/bury old water pipes that are a tripping hazard and aesthetic nuisance. Members were all in agreement that a cleanup will be a good stepping stone for future plans for the area. Picnic tables will cost about \$1,800/ea. including install. Barbecue grills were an additional thought. These items will be revisited at a later meeting, after DPW is able to get some preliminary work done.

Staff Update:

Ms. Preszler told the Authority about a bench that has been dedicated to Jean and Michael Leonard that will be put on the Campus. A location has not yet been determined. Many commissioners wondered if dedicated or sponsored benches/picnic tables would be a viable option to add around the walking trails. She updated the FHA about CIP funds which has been proposed to be reduced from \$2.5 Million to zero for the '17-'18 fiscal year. However, there is some money remaining from Canaan House that may be able to be used for assessment and analysis of other buildings.

Benesch Engineering Firm was awarded for the STEAP Grant, and had a preliminary meeting this morning. Town Officials, Mr. Carley, and Mr. Sagedy were present, and will be meeting with the Landscape Architect next week. Mr. Sagedy addressed his concern over the FFH Campus sign which is 'hard to see and poorly designed'. The plans for the Streetscape include possibly re-grading a portion of the property by Mile Hill South to allow for greater visibility. Mr. Sagedy is in favor of making a larger, higher sign. Ms. Preszler is unsure if any of the desired or proposed work regarding the sign would be approved for funding.

The Brownfield Grant is moving along well with company Fuss & O'Neill. Many event requests are coming forward for the 2017 season; the REACH Car Show and Cultural Arts Festival are coming up in September. Ms. Preszler wanted the Authority to think about charging for events in the 2017 year to raise funds to put towards event facilities. Having a set area/field with restrooms and possibly a kitchen would create a better process for planning and could bring in revenue.

Minutes:

Mr. Sagedy presented a motion to accept the minutes of March 28, April 25, May 23, June 1, and June 27. Mr. Bernardi seconded. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

Adjournment:

With no further business, Ms. Adler made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bernardi seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Georgia Contois, Clerk.*