

# ECONOMIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

C.J. Hurgin Municipal Center  
1 School Street Bethel, CT 06801  
(203) 794-8501 Fax (203) 778-7520

## MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2011  
7:00 p.m.  
CJH Municipal Center - "Meeting Room A"

RECEIVED

2011 JUN 22 A 11:00

TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**Present:** Chairman, Mike Boyle, Members: Bob Stosser, Anthony Rubino, Pat Smithwick, Mike Struna and Roy Steiner.

**Absent:** Bonnie Brown, Paul Rinaldi and Sandi Forman.

Chairman Boyle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Mike Boyle made a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting dated May 24, 2011. Motion seconded by Bob Stosser. Vote was taken, Minutes were approved. Pat Smithwick and Mike Struna abstained.

### Updates on Sub-Committees:

Pat Smithwick- Chairman Boyle, Roy Steiner and Pat attended the meeting of the Danbury Chamber of Commerce that focused on the "CEDS" (see attached). It was noted that working together with Danbury can be helpful in the future with development.

Chairman Boyle reported on a meeting of the DPUC, at which he attended. Discussion resulted with the main focus being sewer allocation, future development, banking allocation in the future and the incorrect assumption that there is not enough allocation within the Town. Roy Steiner made a point that this misconception must be corrected. There is plenty of allocation.

Chairman Boyle also brought out the fact that one listing of businesses is needed which spurred the discussion of how and where one centralized business listing can be obtained. He noted that in speaking with Liz Stocker,

Director of Economic and Community Development for the Town of Newtown, she has obtained such a listing from their Assessor.

Bob Stosser updated the committee on the fact that he obtained several different reports from various Town Hall Departments, namely, the Health Department with a listing of restaurants, the Town Clerk's office with a listing of Trade Name Certificates and the Building Department with a listing of Commercial Permits being issued since 2003.

Bob updated the committee on the brochures progress for Sandi, stating that Sandi had submitted a pre-final draft to Karen Fildes. Don Dempsey has agreed to take the pictures for the brochure; Sandi had sent an e-mail to members of the committee with the news. When the brochure is finished the final edit will be done by Joan Gereg-Bradley of the First Selectman's office who is an expert on proofing.

Chairman Boyle reported on meeting with the Chamber of Commerce and the newly hired Director, Bobbi Jo. She will be organizing the meet and greet sessions that were discussed during our last meeting, She officially starts July 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Boyle reported that the meeting was very productive and the Chamber and our Committee are interested in working very closely.

Tony Rubino reported on contacting downtown property owners; they are very receptive to having a meeting with the First Selectman. It is hopeful that a meeting will take place within the next month or two.

Roy Steiner reported on the progress with the signs, approximately 20 can be placed on town roads, 10 are in need of State approval which will be handled as a second step so as not to slow up the progress of placement.

Lt. Dickinson and Steve Palmer have completed the siting approvals.

The First Selectman, along with Chairman Boyle met at the High School to honor the students that worked with the Committee this past year. According to Chairman Boyle it was a quick ceremony due to the kids schedule with final exams. Chairman Boyle is thrilled to find out that the students will continue to work with the Committee next year as it will become part of their curriculum. He also noted that the First Selectman has given the Committee the go ahead to enroll in "CERC".

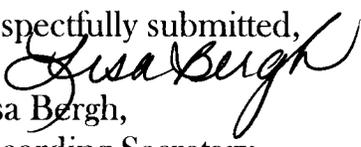
Tony Rubino brought up an excellent point with regards to the signage, we are enticing people to come to the downtown area to shop, however there is no signage telling patrons where to park.

This is something that should be looked into.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Stosser; motion was seconded by Roy Steiner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Bergh,

Recording Secretary

## Mike Boyle

**From:** Newtown Economic Development Commission [edc@newtown.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 21, 2011 1:15 PM  
**To:** Mike Boyle  
**Subject:** Get the Latest Newtown News from the EDC

June 2011 | Issue 2

# NEWTOWN NEWS

Live. Work. Grow.



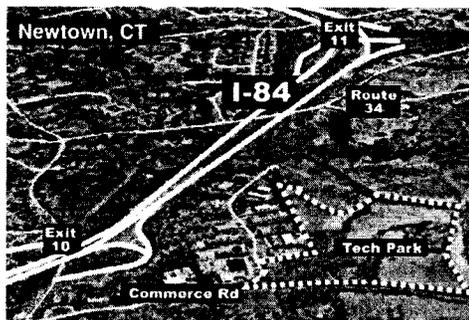
Dear Mike,



The Newtown Economic Development Commission is working on some commercial and industrial projects that will eventually benefit all business in town. Not a Newtown business? Then learn more about what is going on in Newtown and how Newtown can be a positive step for your bottom line.

Elizabeth Stocker, AICP  
Director of Economic and Community Development

## With large commercial and industrial properties, Newtown can easily match your building needs



Newtown appears to be almost unique in that it has large commercial and industrial properties - both land and buildings at three separate interchanges of Interstate 84 making it easy to match your needs to the right property.

The Newtown Tech Park, located a few hundred yards off exit 10 has just received local wetlands approval for an access road

and is much closer to being shovel-ready. A few lots remain nearby on Commerce Road and at Curtis Corporate Park in Sandy Hook, where small businesses make up an important commercial hub off exit 11.

[Read more...](#)



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[AFS Tax Abatement Approval](#)

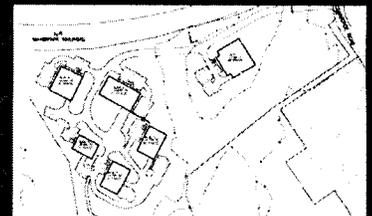
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### FEATURED PROPERTY



Newtown Tech Park advances with local Inland Wetlands Commission approval.

[Learn more >>](#)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Newtown**  
RESTAURANT WEEK

September 6th - 16th • 2011

## AFS Tax Abatement Receives Go-Ahead

Hi-tech manufacturing company receives permission for temporary abatement. Advanced Fusion Systems' bid to have its property taxes remain flat for the next five years has been overwhelmingly approved.

[Read more...](#)

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[Read more](#) about the advantages to doing business in Newtown.

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## Newtown property owners who need assistance with redevelopment of their commercial property may be eligible for Regional Brownfield funds

Newtown is a member of the Regional Brownfields Partnership and has worked with the Valley Council of Governments (VCOG) to help clean up contaminated properties including the duplexes at the Fairfield Hills Campus.

EPA announced the recipients of \$1.9 million in new Brownfields grants which will help Connecticut communities to assess, cleanup and redevelop abandoned or contaminated properties. The funding is part of more than \$76 million in EPA brownfields investments across the country announced this past week by EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson to protect health and the environment, create jobs and promote economic re-development in American communities. The grant money will assist work to reclaim sites including old textile mills, sites containing hazardous substances and petroleum products and other abandoned industrial and commercial properties. EPA's Brownfields program encourages redevelopment of America's estimated 450,000 abandoned and contaminated waste sites. \$500,000 has been awarded to the VCOG community-wide revolving loan fund bringing new funding opportunities to communities within the region. Property owners are encouraged to contact **Elizabeth Stocker** at 203-270-4271 in the Newtown Economic & Community Development office for more information.

[Learn more online...](#)

The town of Newtown is in the planning stages for Newtown's First Restaurant Week, to occur September 6th - 16th, 2011.

[More Information >>](#)

## PROPERTY SEARCH



Review available buildings and sites in Newtown. [Browse >>](#)

## FARMERS MARKET RETURNS



Fairfield Hills Campus Starts June 28th  
[Learn more...](#)

## NEWTOWN BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

[View](#) Commission's progress report & survey implementation

[View](#) the key findings

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Newtown Municipal Center | 3 Primrose Street Newtown, CT 06470  
(203) 270-4271 | [edc@newtown.org](mailto:edc@newtown.org) | [www.newtown.org](http://www.newtown.org)

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# Western Connecticut Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

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Regional Economic Development Plans have become a significant tool in determining a region's path and development.

- Over 70% of Connecticut municipalities operate under some sort of regional plan



The municipalities of Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield and Sherman ... under the auspices of the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) ... have formed a working group to develop the backbone of such a plan – a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

- Private industry is expected to assume a major partnership role in formulating and implementing the ultimate plan
- At its heart, a CEDS is a Regional Growth Plan outlining a region's strengths and weaknesses, with a roadmap for regional growth exploiting the strengths while addressing the weaknesses. There are a number of critical reasons for developing such a strategy:
  - Required in order to qualify for State and Federal infrastructure grants in local communities
  - Demonstrates to private investors that the communities involved have given careful consideration to the region's place in the state, national and global economy
  - Provides regional cohesion on development strategies that frequently impact multiple communities and their business sectors

## Benefits

### Region/Community

- Access to State and Federal infrastructure grants such as highway, sewer & water, lighting, cleanup of Brownfield properties and other community redevelopment needs
- Allows communities to identify and focus on inherent strengths and develop solutions for addressing and overcoming weaknesses
- Improved quality of life for residents, including local employers and their employees

### Business/Industry

- Regional infrastructure grants impacting industry and its transportation needs
- Enhanced community infrastructure supporting local business
- Direct economic development funding to expanding local businesses
- Higher quality of life in individual communities
- Improvements to local labor pools and worker education opportunities

### **CEDS Production Costs**

Development of the CEDS document is undertaken by a consulting firm with experience in the field, under the direction of a planning committee from the local communities involved. The base document is anticipated to cost \$120,000. The costs of annual updates and adherence to the plan are largely expected to be borne by the Region's municipalities. Commitments to underwrite the initial plan development have been received as follows:

Federal matching grant	\$60,000
State planning grant	\$15,000
Regional municipalities through HVCEO	\$15,000
Funds needed from private sector partners	<b>\$30,000</b>

### **Private Partnership Opportunities**

#### **Material Participation in Development of the CEDS**

Utilization of local industry representatives is essential to ensure that a broad spectrum of business, individual and government interests are considered. For this reason, corporate involvement is a requirement of the CEDS process. Furthermore, a business organization's understanding of the CEDS and its process will improve the effective implementation of development strategies devised.

#### **Financial Partnership Levels & Recognition:**

Financial contributions are necessary to help defray the costs associated with the development and production of the CEDS document. Most of the expense is covered by grants from the Federal Economic Development Administration, the State Department of Economic and Community Development and HVCEO municipalities. Financial participation by local business in the process is also a requirement of the CEDS process – leveraging contributions from the public sector and indicating private sector support for the plan.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Recognition</b>
Platinum	\$10,000	Featured mention on all published documents, news articles and on related web sites
Gold	\$5,000	Major acknowledgement in all published documents and on related web sites
Silver	\$2,500	Acknowledgement in all published documents and on related web sites
Bronze	\$500	Acknowledgement in all published documents

Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Business & Industry Foundation of Western Connecticut an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.