



The Corporation for New Milford Economic Development

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 24, 2025, 7:30 a.m.

E. Paul Martin Meeting Room of Town Hall.

Attending:

Oley Carpp, Chairman
Mir Ahmed
Geoff Ball
Liba Furhman
Kristin Gizzi
Mike Nahom (phone)
Eli Noam (Zoom)
Ray Oneglia
Ivan Shiffman
Tony Vengrove (7:48am)
Buck Whiteway (7:59am)

Also Attending:

Dr. Thomas Koobatian, Guest
Jerry Romaniello, Guest
Stephanie Barksdale, Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Dean Barille
Mayor Pete Bass
Adele Conner
Holly Hollander
Ray Kostka
Paul Murphy
Janet Parlato
Bob Reiling

1. Call to Order

Mr. Carpp called the meeting to order at 7:38 am.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 23, 2025

Ms. Furhman moved to approve the minutes of January 23, 2025. Mr. Oneglia seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

3. Chairman's Summary

Mr. Carpp opened the first meeting of the newly seated board, noting officer updates: Ms. Furhman is now Treasurer, Mr. Vengrove is Secretary, and he and Mr. Shiffman will continue as Chair and Vice Chair, respectively. He confirmed the Corporation will continue its current slate of projects and welcomed Mr. Jerry Romaniello, a new co-owner of Candlewood Valley Country Club (CVCC).

Mr. Romaniello, a lifelong New Milford resident, shared that he and his partners purchased CVCC in August with the intent to maintain it as a golf course. They've hired an architect to renovate the pro shop, upgrade the driving range, and expand the banquet facility.

Mr. Carpp noted some early improvements, including expanded cart access to the parking lot to ease club transport. Additional work is underway on sand traps and water features.

Mr. Romaniello added that the banquet room will be enlarged to accommodate up to 300 guests, with an upgraded sound system. The restaurant will operate year-round and include a new outdoor patio.

4. Treasurer's Report

Ms. Furhman reported current cash balances as follows:

- a) Cash Available - \$38,177.57
- b) Loan Account - \$307.32
- c) Facade Account - \$3,119.02
- d) Fiduciary Balance - Pop Up/Mentorship Program: \$17,561.55
 - Riverfest: \$2,333.94

TOTAL AVAILABLE - \$41,603.91

Mr. Ball moved to approve the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Ms. Gizzi. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Community Update

In lieu of Mayor Bass having a meeting conflict, there was no community update.

6. Old Business

A. Grants Update

Mr. Carpp reported that the Public Works Properties Brownfield Assessment Grant is nearing completion. He and Ms. Furhman were scheduled to join a Zoom call later that day with Fuss & O'Neill, the Mayor, and Jack Healy to review a draft summary of findings. The Development Committee will meet via Zoom next week to discuss estimated remediation costs in preparation for potential future development.

He also shared that a second potential grant—related to the former East Street School—is pending from the State, with an anticipated award decision in late May or early June. Preliminary findings may include hazardous building materials and possible contamination from LifeStar helicopter operations.

B. Small Business Mentoring Program

Mr. Vengrove reported that updates were made to the Corporation's website, including a link to the town's Economic Development website. He encouraged board members to review the site and suggest additional edits.

He also shared that the Savings Bank of Danbury awarded the Corporation a \$3,000 grant to conduct market research on the needs of New Milford business owners. A SurveyMonkey questionnaire will be developed to gather feedback, which will help shape the direction of the upcoming Small Business Summit.

Ms. Furhman provided an update on the Riverfront Revitalization project. The committee has engaged WXY as consultants to finalize a development plan. A public engagement session is scheduled for May 21 at 7:00 PM at the Senior Center. WXY is also seeking input from members of the development community regarding potential development and investment strategies. Riverfest is planned for the first weekend in October.

7. New Business - Bank Resolutions

A. Bank Resolutions: Ms. Furhman moved to remove Raymond Kostka as an authorized signatory on accounts ending #6635 and #6690 at Union Savings Bank, as well as the

Corporation's Webster Bank account. The motion was seconded by Mr. Whiteway and passed unanimously.

Ms. Furhman then moved to add Liba Furhman, Anthony Vengrove, Alexander Carpp, and Adele Conner as authorized signatories on accounts ending #6635 and #6690 at Union Savings Bank, as well the Corporation's Webster Bank account. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gizzi and passed unanimously.

Ms. Furhman moved to close the Corporation's microloan account at Webster Bank. The motion was seconded by Mr. Oneglia and passed unanimously.

B. Special Guest - Dr. Thomas Koobatian, Nuvance Health, New Milford Hospital

Dr. Koobatian announced that the State has approved the merger between Nuvance and Northwell Health, effective May 1.

To address the shortage of physicians in communities like New Milford, the hospital is developing a residency program with the goal of attracting medical residents who will train and potentially remain in the area. He also shared that the new Women's Wellness Center will occupy the hospital's second floor and focus on women's health, including heart health, menopause, breast health, and overall wellness.

Plans are underway to construct a surgical services center featuring robotic technology to better compete with private practices. Additionally, outpatient physical therapy services will be offered to support patients recovering from surgery, falls, or extended hospital stays.

C. Additional Board Conversation

Mr. Noam inquired about the Board's views on development north of Veterans Bridge, specifically regarding the lot near the orthopedic office that has come before the Zoning Commission.

Ms. Furhman suggested it may be valuable to have a guest speaker at the next board meeting, recommending that we invite State Representative Bill Buckbee and State Senator Stephen Harding to attend the July meeting and share 2025 legislative updates..

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 am was made by Mr. Whiteway, and seconded by Mr. Nahom. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



April 25, 2025

Tony Vengrove
Secretary

Notes taken by Stephanie Barksdale, Administrative Assistant