

Economic Development Commission

- **Area communities without a commission:**

- **Westport**-no commission
- **New Canaan**-no commission
- **Darien**-no commission
- **Weston**-no commission

- **Area communities with a commission**

- **Ridgefield:** “seven-member commission with the purpose...to seek to implement orderly and planned economic development, in keeping with the character of the town.”
 - Broadband study...Collaborate with Non Profits on Events...Opinions on development project...Welcome cards to new residents
 - Seeking to increase commission to 9 members.
- **Fairfield:** seven-members, one vacancy, “tasked with the promotion and development of the economic resources of the Town of Fairfield”.
 - Receive reports from ED director and chamber of commerce....Opinions on zoning changes....Investigating Taste of Fairfield and possible new restaurant

Note: Norwalk has a committee called the Economic and Community and Development Committee, but they are council members performing a different role than a traditional EDC.

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• **Discussion with Commission**

- *Need more direction from the town.*
- *Prefer being assigned tasks.*
- *Willing to do some advocacy work.*
- *Want to continue with current work, including Instagram, working with WHS, assisting with events, as with the Duck Race and holding business owner forums, as previously held with primarily Kimco tenants to flush out issues.*
- *Don't see themselves as a driver of grand list growth.*

• **Recommendation**

- *Board of Selectmen should adjust their expectations of volunteers and this commission's role in grand list growth, marketing and supporting the POCD.*
- *Under the supervision of the first selectwoman, assign the commission discrete tasks.*
 - First task: Research and develop signage recommendations for submission to P&Z.
 - Expand on their existing research of other towns
 - Gather feedback from Wilton businesses