



TOWN OF THOMPSON Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, July 21, 2020 Via ZOOM Online

Minutes

First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order at 7 PM with all Selectmen present. The process for participation by the public was reviewed.

Roll Call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectman Ken Beausoleil and Susanne Witkowski Others; John Rice (PnZ), H. Charles Obert (IWWA and Trails), Alison Boutaugh (Library Director), Members of Boards and Members of the Public. Dotti Durst, Recording Secretary

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the minutes of the BOS 07-07-2020 Special Meeting carried unanimously.

II. Correspondence:

- A. Chamber of Commerce – 4 Lunch & Learn sessions are scheduled, via Zoom
- B. Planning and Zoning Commission - 1395 Riverside Drive: Memo from Cindy Dunne with details of the Commission discussion of the situation at the property

III. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil -requested an update on Animal Control. A. St Onge: a fund of about \$60,000 has been accumulating and will be used for upgrades to the pound itself. S. Witkowski: Volunteers are ready to assist and some are providing supplies as well as funding. With the volunteers, the budget will be adequate.

S. Witkowski- encouraged everyone to remain hydrated in his heat, and to keep safe

A St Onge- t he first summer concert was held at Riverside Park, with Town Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek (a singer) and her band, providing entertainment; she received hearty praise. The DPW assisted by moving a flatbed trailer which facilitated getting the sound throughout the park, where people did remain socially distanced; about 75 people attended each of the two nights. Other concerts will be August 14 and September 18-19.

IV. Citizen Comments: none

- V. Department of Housing - Certified Resolution: Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek submitted a grant application for Affordable Housing and \$15,000 was received. In addition, the State mandate for review of the Plan of Conservation and Development includes a requirement that Affordable Housing be addressed, concerning being able to provide various housing opportunities and diversity of choice. Tyra needs to be appointed to administer the grant.
- Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to adopt the Certified Resolution as presented carried unanimously.** The Certified Resolution is attached.

- VI. Thompson Public Library - Request for Little Free Library - Discussion and Possible Action: A, Boutaugh reviewed the Little Library concept, which is a "Take one, Leave one" community initiative involving residents who stock books, swap them and keep the shelves

in order. Favorable comments have come in from other towns. Community pride is the monitors and there have been no significant issues. S Witkowski asked about costs. Volunteers will donate materials and construct them; the DPW will be asked to install. There are concerns with Heritage Park, being not visible from the road; Wilsonville Park is recommended instead. The plan is to start with two in town and monitor the usage.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the installation of two Little Free Libraries, locations to be decided, carried unanimously.

- VII. 1395 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale - Discussion and Possible Action: new information has come in through Marla Butts, the IWW Director, who relays an inquiry from the developer about the spillway. A. St Onge proposes donating 1395 to the developer at 1405, who has already cleaned up the parcel, with them taking on the rights to the dam and the water rights. K. Beausoleil met with the developers, who have only been there since May 15, and feels their proposal for retail and food service uses as well as residential is sound and will be a 5-year process. He calls for a committee to be set up, comprised of Boards and Commissions with a direct interest, as well as others, to review the spillway, the possibility of a canoe launch and to get the details about an easement which will be needed; this dialogue will establish what is will be in the best interest of all parties. S. Witkowski has toured the parcel, noting that it is “a little gem” for the town. It was acquired by the town in 2007 and the dam in 2008, in a swap that brought hydropower rights to the town. She asked the First Selectman to contact the Town Attorney about the feasibility of various uses of the parcel, then to reach out to the developers; K. Beausoleil concurred. A. St Onge will make the inquiry.
- VIII. Large Scale Truck Traffic Issue - Discussion and Possible Action: Complaints about traffic have come in, citing “fast” and “heavy” as concerns, in several areas of town. One approach is to send a letter to businesses which use trucks, especially heavy trucks, asking that they be aware of members of the community and of safety. After discussion, it was agreed that a letter will be sent, utilizing the gentle approach, acknowledging that State Police presence may be needed for actual control.
- IX. Downtown Mill Rehabilitation District Resolution - Discussion and Possible Action: documents were provided to the Selectmen with background information important for them to have in advance of the Public Hearing on this matter, scheduled for Thursday, July 23, 2020. No action will be taken on the matter until after the Hearing.
- X. Other Business: none
- XI. Citizens’ Comments:
- H. C. Obert- as Members of the IWW, we know the dam behind the Kof C Hall is dangerous; it is now owned by the bank, which assumes the liability. At the Wilsonville mill site, there is a place for a canoe launch which would be a positive for town. As a member of the Trails Committee and the EDC, we know we need pedestrian-safe roads for walkers/hikers/bicyclists; speeding vehicles and heavy truck traffic are detrimental. The bond required for gravel permits should be including an increment for damage to roads from those vehicles.
- J. Rice- Planning and Zoning supports the idea of setting up a committee to look into options for the parcel at 1395 Riverside Drive. After complimenting the DPW for all the tasks they have completed in the last few months, he suggested that the DPW be asked to review the speed limit signs, as part of the investigation of speeding within town.

XII. Tax Refunds:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve tax refunds as listed, for a total of \$670.96, carried unanimously.

Brunnett, Earl R. Jr.	\$137.58	Sheehan, Thomas A.	\$37.21
Honda Lease Trust	\$357.98	Sheehan, Lisa A.	\$53.69
Tackson, Dennis A. and Shead, Patricia M.			\$84.50

XIII. Adjourn:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 7:52 PM carried unanimously.

To hear the meeting on Zoom; click on the link or copy/paste it to your Search bar

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/- RPNZXz-3lOa5X80nrfdJMgEpboeaa80XUZ_YEyE-Hrkrm75t1G0AIaYuoel_0](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-RPNZXz-3lOa5X80nrfdJMgEpboeaa80XUZ_YEyE-Hrkrm75t1G0AIaYuoel_0)

Password: **hP*^1Y?.**

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Board of Selectmen. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION

Connecticut Department of Housing Affordable Housing Plan Planning Grant

WHEREAS, the Connecticut Department of Housing has awarded the Town of Thompson planning grant funds to prepare and adopt an Affordable Housing Plan under the provisions of 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Thompson is in need of an Affordable Housing Plan conforming to the provisions of 8-30j of the Connecticut General Statutes, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Thompson will also be undertaking the ten-year revision of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development, of which an Affordable Housing Plan would be a recommended component.

RESOLVED, by the Board of Selectmen of Thompson that we do hereby authorize Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning and Development to serve as Thompson's authorized person for the administration of the Connecticut Department of Housing Affordable Housing Plan Planning Grant, and authorize her to sign the notice of grant award, develop an RFP for a consultant to provide technical assistance under and administer the grant on behalf of Thompson.

I, Renee Waldron, Town Clerk, certify that this is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of Thompson at a meeting of its Board of Selectmen duly convened on Tuesday, July 21, 2020 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever and is at present in full force and effect.