



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

MINUTES

First Selectman Amy St Onge called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with all three Selectmen present via Zoom. A. St Onge noted that the meeting is being recorded.

Roll call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil. Finance Director Orla McKiernan-Raftery, John Rice (PnZ, Building Committee), Renee Waldron (Chair, EDC's Branding Strategy Implementation Committee), Milltown Grill owners Julie Rumrill and Eric Murray, Members of Boards/ Commissions, and of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the 11-17-2020 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes with a modification carried unanimously. In Agenda item 7, Plum Road, the representative of KWP was B. *Woodis*.

II. Correspondence:

- A. Duff & Phelps - Southern New England Telephone Company Personal Property
- B. TEEG - Annual Report

III. Selectmen's Comments:

S. Witkowski- the hybrid town meeting went well; many people signed in; thanks to the schools IT department and to Superintendent Melinda Smith for coordinating this event

K. Beausoleil- none

A. St Onge- clarified that the work on Quaddick Town Farm Road was on the BOS agenda on 10/20/2020, added per vote of the BOS; the motion was made and seconded to send the matter to PnZ for their review. Subsequently it appeared on the November legal notice

*The Holiday lights contest (Recreation Department) invites a home or business to register and a map will be created for a Community Christmas Tour December 14-26. Festive and fun for all!

* The approval from the State Animal Control staff now permits animals to be sheltered at the kennel. If weekend weather permits, volunteers will do some outside landscaping cleanup. A facebook page has been created; the Animal Control officer is already well underway.

IV. Citizen Comments: Renee Waldron, XX Street- Thompson Together is collecting mercury button batteries (hearing aids/watches) for a program run by Wheelabrator at \$100 per pound.

V. Oscar Swanson Park: Parking Area - Discussion and Possible Action: A. St Onge encourages a discussion of the removal of Riverside Drive parking spaces once the sidewalk construction begins, particularly as it will affect the Milltown Grill and the other businesses in that vicinity. The DPW has looked at the area along the Oscar Swanson Park and thinks it feasible to install angled parking; several other ideas are being considered in order to stimulate business utilization of a section of Riverside Drive central to development activities. The details about the park's deed restrictions and the monuments owned by other organizations are being examined. Milltown Grill owners Julie Rumrill and Eric Murray thanked the BOS for considering the matter. A. St Onge

will confer with the Town Attorney about the Park restrictions; the consensus of the BOS is to move ahead, consider all options and develop a long-term plan. No action taken at this meeting.

- VI. EDC Branding Committee: Marketing Plan Presentation - Discussion and Possible Action: Chair R. Waldron presented a PowerPoint explaining the “A Green and Growing Community” theme and logo, used for the first time here, that has been developed by the selected marketing firm. K. Beausoleil praised the EDC for moving forward with the Branding initiative; hundreds of planning hours preceded tonight’s major step. R. Waldron- there are several short- and long-term goals planned to launch the marketing plan and slogan of *Thompson CT. Find Your Way*.
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve the Thompson marketing plan as presented carried unanimously.
- VII. Appointment:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to appoint Brian Loffredo to the Economic Development Commission (through 12-31-2021) and Mathew Whipple to the Fire Protection Advisory Committee (indefinite term) carried unanimously.
- VIII. Re-Appointment:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to re-appoint Brian M. Yacino and Brian Santos to the Economic Development Commission (through 12/31/2021) carried unanimously.
- IX. School Roof Project Short Term Loan Funding Up To \$3.0 Million – Discussion/Possible Action
O. McKiernan-Rafferty: the town will borrow \$2.5M for 9 months and pay it off in October; should the reimbursement not yet have been received, the loan can be extended. This provides extra funds for any contingency that might arise. J. Rice: since the roof is 20-25 years old and over 200,000 square feet, the town should be prepared for the unexpected, perhaps even hazardous materials or other issues. The BOF approved up to \$4.7 M for the project and it went to the Town Meeting. The BOS extended thanks to the Finance Director for the update.
- X. Other Business: none
- XI. Citizens Comments: John Rice, 39 E. Thompson Rd- in addition to possible parking along the park to serve Riverside Drive businesses, consider a vacant parcel of land where a barber shop was previously located; perhaps a lease by the town could be established during the construction, thus supporting the businesses in that vicinity. The BOS thanked him for the idea.
- XII. Tax Refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to approve tax refunds totaling \$432.59 carried unanimously.
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| Gerds, Gina R. | \$11.02 | Lombard, Tara | \$60.77 |
| Cab East LLC (Ford Credit Personal Property Tax) | | | \$269.31 |
| Cab East LLC (Ford Credit Personal Property Tax) | | | \$91.49 |
- XIII. Adjourn:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 8:14 PM carried unanimously.

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.