



TOWN OF THOMPSON

Board of Selectmen

SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Via ZOOM Online Meeting Portal

MINUTES

The call to order by First Selectman Amy St Onge was at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call: First Selectman Amy St Onge, Selectmen Susanne Witkowski and Ken Beausoleil.

Others: John Rice (Planning and Zoning), Brian Loffredo (Branding/EDC/Trails), Members of Other Boards, Members of the public, Recording Secretary Dotti Durst

A. St Onge noted all Selectmen to be present and reviewed procedure for participation.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to approve the minutes of the BOS Special Meeting of 6-16-2020 carried unanimously with a modification. In item *VIII, Thompson Trails*, S. Witkowski requested confirmation that there are no safety issues along the Trail.

II. Correspondence:

A. DESSP - May 2020 Services: 214 calls were logged

B. Thank You memo for the Town Scholarship from Jack Merrill, class of 2020, was read aloud

C. July, 2020 EDC Branding Strategy Implementation Committee Update/Invitation- detailed the efforts by these groups collectively over many years to move Thompson forward.

Participation in the Branding Implementation Committee, the first Wednesday of each month, is encouraged by volunteers from each Board/Committee/Commission. The BOS are welcome.

III. Selectmen Comments:

K. Beausoleil- the DPW has completed painting lines on Buckley Hill Road, a safety improvement. Stop lights were also addressed. * On the 27th the hazardous waste collection was well organized and went smoothly. A. St Onge added that 333 residents participated. * The EDC letter by Renee Waldron that was received was excellent, outlining all that has been done over several years; each seemed like a baby step at the time, but cumulatively is impressive in moving Thompson ahead.

S. Witkowski- Happy Independence Day to everyone

A. St Onge – the town hall has now opened, including the tax office, with access at the rear entrance and security staff ascertaining covid protocols. The town appreciates all who are making timely tax payments. * A Public Hearing notice is being prepared for July 23 at 7 PM via Zoom; the purpose is to present the Resolution approved by the BOS to establish a mill rehabilitation area that allows for tax deferment while the mill area is under redevelopment. * At a previous meeting, resident Karen Durlach and Jessica Bolte noted unsafe intersections along the Airline Trail in East Thompson; the DPW has addressed the situation with painted crosswalks. *After the agenda was posted: Communication from Tyra Penn-Gesek requests BOS discussion and approval on the recommendation by the Branding Implementation Committee for the selection of a Marketing firm.

Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to add to the agenda under Item *VIII, Other* consideration of the EDC/ Branding Implementation Committee recommendation to hire a marketing firm carried unanimously.

IV. Citizens' Comments:

-B. Loffredo/Trails Committee appreciates the safety improvements done by the DPW. Jessica Bolte also posted comments and photos on facebook regarding the work done, painting crosswalks and mowing beside the entire trail; it was great the DPW could fit it into their schedule. Unfortunately the RiMaConn event there has been cancelled (covid) but there is heavy usage as people welcome getting outside at this time. He also noted the positive comments about Hazardous Waste Day.

-J. Rice reviewed the process at Planning and Zoning which resulted in 1395 Riverside Dr being sent to the BOS. His motion was for disposal of the property (not specifying that it should be sold). The property next door is being rehabilitated into office space. He called for a group to look at all the alternatives in the best interest of the town.

- V. Thompson Public Library - Request for Little Free Library at the parks at Riverside Drive and behind the Knights of Columbus Hall. K. Beausoleil looked at the links provided which provide background and information about this concept, and is supportive of the concept. He wonders if the location at Heritage Park behind the K of C is ideal, in that it is not visible from the road; the other proposed location seems ideal. A. St Onge noted that Recreation Director Lesley Munshower also has the same concern with the Heritage Park location, suggesting the Wilsonville Playground. Several other questions arose. A. St Onge will follow up. No action is being taken on the matter at this time.

VI. Appointments:

Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to appoint Ross Dimock and Earl Rosebrook to the Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternates, as endorsed by the RTC, carried unanimously. Clarification will be made that the ZBA is the Board on which Earl Rosebrook has interested in serving.

- VII. 1395 Riverside Drive, North Grosvenordale/1.3 acres owned by the town - Discussion and Possible Action: A. St Onge- Planning and Zoning did vote to move forward with disposition of the property. Details of the situation and of the dam were reviewed. She suggests putting the parcel out for bid starting at \$30,000. K. Beausoleil listened to the recording of the PnZ meeting at which this was discussed; John Rice's idea was to look at alternatives factoring in a possible boat launch, the need for easements and the needs of the developer. S. Witkowski- how long has the town owned it? 13 years. The developers did clean up the parcel. The original cost to the town was \$30,000 and that would be the minimum bid we would put out. The appraised value is about \$51,000. K. Beausoleil- there are ways to split the parcel and derive benefits. He suggested a committee to brainstorm and examine possibilities. A. St Onge noted the property has been a liability. **Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to put out an invitation to bid on the real property located at 1395 Riverside Drive, Thompson.** Discussion ensued. A site visit will be scheduled to learn more about the property, and to understand the points being made by J, Rice. **The motion was withdrawn by A. St Onge and the second was withdrawn by S. Witkowski.** The consensus was that no action will be taken at this time but that it should be brought back to the agenda in 2 weeks.

- VIII. Other Business: Consideration of the hiring of a firm to market Thompson as recommended by the EDC/Branding Implementation Committee: a memo reviewed the RFP process, including that 12 responses were received. The choice was Sullivan and LeShane, Hartford, particularly due to their level of customization of the plans for Thompson. This is a decision in the hands of the EDC; the BOS affirmed support.
Motion K. Beausoleil seconded by S. Witkowski to support appointment of the company selected by the EDC to handle Marketing of Thompson carried unanimously.
- IX. Citizens' Comments: B. Loffredo- made a positive comment about possible restoration of the stone structure at 1395 Riverside Drive. K. Beausoleil reviewed the parcel size and ownership, noting that the town owns the dam and has rights to generate water power on the lower level. A. St Onge commented that the structure needs roof repair which is planned before winter. S. Witkowski requested a list of all properties owned by the town; A. St Onge will follow up with the assessor.
- X. Tax Refunds:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by K. Beausoleil to issue refunds to Stephanie Lynn Harkins (\$166.50) and Toyota Lease Trust (\$526.76) totaling \$693.26 carried unanimously.
- XI. Adjourn:
Motion A. St Onge seconded by S. Witkowski to adjourn at 7:43 PM carried unanimously.

To hear the meeting, click or copy/paste this link into your Search bar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/6fd2C7ip-HFLZIWKtn6BAa0rOtT5X6a8gCRMqPRen0830hvHo_8cRvrlPAA9eMv
Password: 3z.9L3&\$

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.