



TOWN of THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

MINUTES: Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, January 15, 2014, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

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Chairman Lajoie called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Members Present: JoAnn Hall, Ryan Lajoie, Brian Santos, John Sharpe and Brian Yacino

Staff Present: Mary Ann Chinatti, Director of Planning and Development
Ida Ransom, Recording Secretary

Guest Present: Selectman Kerstin Forrester

Acceptance of Minutes

1. **Correct minutes by changing at the top of the first page November 27 to November 20 and on page 2, 2.b. delete "be". JoAnn Hall moved and Brian Yacino seconded the motion to accept the minutes of the November 20, 2013 meeting as corrected. The motion carried unanimously.**

Reports

1. Treasurer
 - a. There is \$1,907.85 available in the budget as of December 26, 2013.
 - b. Mary Ann Chinatti presented a proposed budget for FY2014-2015 with the only change being a pay raise of 2.75% for the recording secretary. **JoAnn Hall moved and John Sharpe seconded the motion to accept the budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.**
2. Business Street Signs
 - a. There have been no new orders.
 - b. Chairman Lajoie has to follow through on placement of the signs for Rolli's Market.
 - c. There has been no resolution on placement for the Lord Thompson Manor signs and one of the Johnston Real Estate signs; Chairman Lajoie will contact the Director of Public Works.
 - d. Eleven (11) businesses have purchased street signs.
3. Belding Corticelli Improvement Committee
 - a. Mary Ann Chinatti reported that the Town is applying for an EPA Brownfields Grant.
 - b. Owner, Andy Scott, has given permission for access to the site.
 - c. The EDC Commission did submit a letter of support as did the Thompson Business Association (TBA). Letters of support are still being accepted from businesses and residents.
4. Update on businesses in Town
 - a. Selectman Forrester stated that Joseph's Hair Salon has closed.
 - b. K9 1on1 Companion for K9's has opened on Church Street.

Citizens' comments pertaining to Agenda Items:

1. Selectman Forrester explained that she came to see what the Commission is doing. She stated that the Commission needs to know that there is a moratorium on any ancillary websites. The Commission was directed to email the Selectmen with the number of vacancies on the Commission. She suggested that the Commission may want to present a quarterly report to the Board of Selectmen (BOS); materials should be supplied in advance of the BOS meeting. She further noted that the Commission is an advisory group and that before they do anything they should present it to the BOS.

New Business: None

Old Business

1. Thompson's Plan of Conservation and Development
 - a. In response to a question raised at the last meeting, Mary Ann Chinatti was only able to find information dealing with the rezoning of the Main Street/Riverside Drive corridor; she was not able to find anything on a Main Street study.

- b. Mary Ann Chinatti presented and explained the most recent Town Zoning map; she will compile a list of non-residential properties.
 - c. An April deadline had been set in November for the Informational packets to be ready. Various items to be included were discussed. The major topic at the February meeting will be a review of proposed items for the packet to include but not be limited to: a welcome letter, the meeting schedule of the EDC and other Town bodies, a listing of Town Offices and their hours, a business street application with associated explanation.
 - d. It was the consensus that there should be two (2) welcome letters – one for existing businesses and one for potential businesses.
 - e. Mary Ann Chinatti will provide the members with the statute authorizing Economic Development Commissions and a breakdown of what they shall do and what they may do.
- 2. Thompson Business Association (TBA)
 - a. The Thompson Business Association will be hold an expo on Friday, March 21, 2013 from 6 – 9 PM at the Knights of Columbus. Twenty (20) businesses have already registered.
- 3. Economic Development Commission Web Site
 - a. Brain Santos will work on items that the Commission may want to add to the Town's web site beyond what is already there; i.e., the agendas, minutes and Business Street sign application.
 - b. Mary Ann Chinatti explained that to the left of the Town web page under the map and guide link is "Mapgeo" which shows the properties in Town.
 - c. Selectman Forrester will talk to Paul Baer the volunteer who is working on the Town's web site about enhancing the EDC's material; she stated there is lots of room available.

Correspondence: None

Commissioner Comments: None

Next meeting

- 1. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at 6:30 PM in the Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall.

Adjourn

- 1. Chairman Lajoie adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.

Ida Ransom
Recording Secretary