



TOWN of THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Minutes: Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, March 16, 2016

2nd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall, 6:30 P.M.

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I. Call to Order

1. Chairman Brian Yacino called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.
2. Members Present: JoAnn Hall, Brian Santos, John Sharpe and Brian Yacino.
3. Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
Mary Ann Chinatti, Director of Planning and Development
4. Also Present: Steve Herbert, Third Selectman

II. Approval of Minutes

1. January 20, 2016
 - a. **Brian Santos moved and John Sharpe seconded the motion to approve the January 20, 2016 meeting minutes.**
JoAnn Hall- Yes Brian Santos- Yes John Sharpe- Yes Brian Yacino- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.

III. Reports

1. Treasurer
 - a. JoAnn Hall reported that \$550.40 has been spent, leaving a balance of \$1,970.60.
2. Update on Businesses in Town
 - a. The Commission discussed various businesses/projects in Thompson such as the fire at the old Del Rio restaurant, the expansion at Famous Franks, and an update on the progress of the old Quinn's Shirt Shop.

IV. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items

1. Steve Herbert, Second Selectman, stated that the audience at Board of Selectmen meetings has mentioned that EDC spends most of its budget on recording minutes. He stated that he would be willing to fight for a bigger budget for EDC if there was some idea or thought that needs funding to help Thompson grow. S. Herbert also stated that the owner of the Industrial Park is willing to come to a meeting to speak with the Commission about ideas that he has.
2. The Commission discussed the plan that was developed in 2010 on how to inform, expand, and develop Thompson's economic community. B. Santos agreed to get in contact with the Chairperson of the Putnam EDC and ask him to attend a Thompson EDC meeting.
3. The Commission discussed the website and the need for the website to be more informative and easier to navigate.

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4. M. Chinatti brought up the fact that EDC is statutorily required to maintain a list of business space in Town, and once that inventory is created, it will be easier to market the Town to real estate agencies, etc. J. Hall agreed to get a spreadsheet form the Assessor's Office listing all nonresidential properties in Town.

V. Old Business

VI. New Business

1. Update on Contact with New Businesses
 - a. B. Yacino stated that he visited Monte Bianco's, Tropical Treats, and Heavenly Gifts to welcome them to Thompson.
2. Update on Business Expo
 - a. B. Yacino stated that the expo has been cancelled or at least postponed.
3. Developing an Identity/Brand for Thompson
 - a. B. Yacino provided the Commission with a lit of questions/suggestions to consider when thinking about Thompson's brand.
 - b. M. Chinatti stated that developing a brand is something that is best not done by one Commission, and that it is extremely laborious and would take EDC a very long time to develop a brand themselves. She stated that she received a proposal to develop a brand for Thompson that would cost over \$15,000. She also stated that NECCOG has said they would help Thompson develop a brand for free, but that their official proposal has not been received yet.
 - c. The Commission decided to wait for NECCOG's proposal before proceeding.

VII. Correspondence: None

VIII. Comments by Commission Members

1. J. Sharpe asked when the new Dollar General would be open, to which M. Chinatti answered that it would be open late spring, to the best of her knowledge.
2. The Commission discussed the new Dunkin Donuts and the expected renovations to the package store next to the new Dunkin Donuts.
3. The Commission discussed the possibility of using funds from the EDC budget to produce welcome baskets for new businesses and/or having local businesses donate gift cards which could then be used to welcome new businesses to Town.

IX. Next Meeting

1. April 20, 2016: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

X. Adjourn

1. **John Sharpe moved and Brian Yacino seconded the motion to adjourn.**
JoAnn Hall- Yes Brian Santos- Yes John Sharpe- Yes Brian Yacino- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
2. Chairman Brian Yacino adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary