



TOWN of THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Minutes: Economic Development Commission

Wednesday, June 15, 2016

Merrill Seney 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 6:31 PM.
 2. Members Present: JoAnn Hall, H. Charles Obert, Brian Santos, John Sharpe, and Brian Yacino
 3. Members Absent: None
 4. Staff Present: Tina Fox, Recording Secretary
 5. Also Present: Steve Herbert, Ken Beausoleil, Marie Mongeau
- II. Approval of Minutes
 1. May 18, 2016
 - a. **Brian Santos moved and H. Charles Obert seconded the motion to approve the May 18, 2016 meeting minutes.**
JoAnn Hall- Yes H. Charles Obert- Yes
Brian Santos- Yes John Sharpe- Yes Brian Yacino- Yes
The motion carried unanimously.
- III. Reports
 1. Treasurer
 - a. JoAnn Hall reported that there is a balance of approximately \$1,640.
 2. Update on Businesses in Town
 - a. The Commission discussed the closing of Norampac, second biggest taxpayer in Thompson.
 - b. An email from resident Bob Larkin was discussed, which brought up discussion regarding a stipulation that the Planning and Zoning Commission placed on the new Dollar General building to not allow signs in the window of the building.
 - c. K. Beausoleil mentioned meeting with Dan Julian and others at the Industrial Park, which the Commission discussed.
- IV. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items
 1. S. Herbert stated that he did research about Town branding in general and has mixed feelings. He saw many articles that were pro-branding, but there were all by companies who are paid to do branding for Towns. He asked what the Commission plans to get out of the branding discussion, and was glad to hear that the branding project with NECCOG is free. B. Yacino explained the background of why the Commission started this project.

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V. Old Business

1. Choose names for list of Thompson Stakeholders
 - a. After discussion, the Commission decided to compile a list of names verbally, which would be typed by the Recording Secretary and sent to members, to be finalized and forwarded to NECCOG.

VI. New Business

1. Thompson's Strengths/Attributes
 - a. There was no discussion on this agenda item.

VII. Correspondence: None

VIII. Comments by Commission Members

1. H. C. Obert stated that the Trails Committee is working on the airline trail and hope to have one more bridge in just behind the condominiums. The proposed bridge would be visible from 395 south. They are working on routes to the trail for bicyclers, and bicycle friendly communities usually get a big boost. He stated that there is potential to build a park on the adjacent State owned land. The ribbon cutting ceremony for the bridge is tentatively scheduled for October 8, 2016.
2. There was some discussion regarding the newly proposed Economic Development Director position. H. C. Obert stated that he did research and compiled correspondence regarding possible job descriptions. He suggested that the position would report to the Selectmen through the EDC. S. Herbert told the Commission that the BOF reduced the position in the budget to \$50,000, and B. Yacino stated that the BOF's intention was to fund a study instead of a job position.

IX. Next Meeting

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

X. Adjourn

1. **JoAnn Hall moved and H. Charles Obert seconded the motion to adjourn.**

JoAnn Hall- Yes

H. Charles Obert- Yes

Brian Santos- Yes

John Sharpe- Yes

Brian Yacino- Yes

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Chairman Brian Yacino adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Tina Fox
Recording Secretary