

RECEIVED TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

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## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Economic Development Commission Wednesday, April 17, 2019 SENEY MEETING ROOM Town Hall 6:30 P.M. MINUTES

I. The call to order was by Chair Brian Yacino at 6:32 PM
Present: Chairman Brian Yacino Absent: Brian Santos
Jo Ann Hall (out of town)
H. Charles Obert
John Sharpe

John Sharpe

Robert Larkin

Tyra Penn-Gesek, Town Planner (ex officio)

Dotti Durst, Recording Secretary

- II. Approval of Minutes: Motion J. Sharpe seconded by J. Hall to approve the March 20, 2019 minutes carried unanimously.
- III. Reports

1.Chairman: n/a

2. Treasurer J. Hall: the balance on hand is \$26,470.30.

- IV. Update on Businesses in Town: 8 new applications, some for more than one use in the same location or by the same business.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items: none
- VI. Old Business

1.Follow-up review of concepts/proposals: best utilization of current fiscal year budget allocation and next fiscal year allocation: after thorough discussion of the current objectives of the EDC and of the Branding subcommittee, the following decisions were reached:

Motion C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to approve \$10,000 toward an electronic message-board sign to be placed in front of the Town Hall carried unanimously.

Motion C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to fund the Community-wide Branding Planning event on June 5 at the Library for up to \$1,500 carried unanimously.

Motion C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to endorse pay for a high-school intern who will further develop Thompson's social media platform, in collaboration with the Town Clerk and Town Planner, to be paid\$12 per hour (May and June) for approximately 80

total hours, totaling \$960, carried unanimously. Consideration could be given to a Junior who might then continue on during that person's Senior year.

Motion C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to allocate \$5,000 for engineering, site improvements and signage at the Airline Trail, at the site of the Historic Train Wreck and to make it ADA compliant, carried unanimously.

Motion C. Obert seconded by J. Hall to allocate \$5,000 for the development of a Wayfinding (signage) Program, including design and project planning intended to build Thompson's identity and promote economic growth carried unanimously.

Note: additional business card pocket-holders (\$50) have been purchased for the town hall lobby. The Farm Passport Program (being developed) has already been funded (\$1,000).

Note: none of the funds remaining in the Website Development budget line, \$4,755, are planned for EDC; CivicPlus stated that there is no additional fee for a linked EDC webpage.

Note: there is inadequate time this season to implement a Community Garden project but that it might be considered in the next fiscal year.

- 2. Discussion: next step in Implementation of the Strategic Plan the Town Planning Game: Wednesday, June 5, Community Center, gather at 6 PM; a light supper will be provided. The exercise, looking for commonality in the vision for Thompson's growth and development within the town's Board and Commissions, will be participatory and inter-active.
- 3. Update on electronic sign for Town Hall: a price quote has been received
- 4.Farm Passport Program update underway. Ends with the Turkey Trot
- 5.Updated EDC contact information: distributed. An error was identified and will be corrected. Note that now an alternate's seat on the EDC is open.

## VII. New Business

- 1.Discuss creating a unified signage program to tie in with branding, business promotion: action taken earlier to address the matter
- 2.Natchaug Epic C. Obert reviewed the cycle event, held March 31 in Thompson for the first time. He has interacted with the organizers and will meet with them again soon to promote and even better event involving business and organizations in Thompson.
- VIII. Other new business: none
- IX. Progress Reports:
- 1. Zoning Regulations revision: underway
- 2. Town Planner position filled: congratulations were offered to Tyra Penn-Gesek in her new role. Chair B. Yacino reviewed the customary attendance of the Planner at EDC

meetings every other month, but the Planner stated that she will attend as often as her schedule will permit.

- X. Comments by Commission Members: none
- XI. Next Meeting:
  May 15, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall
- XII. Adjournment was at 7:56 PM by Chair B. Yacino

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Economic Development Commission. Please refer to next month's meeting minutes for approval of and/or amendments to these minutes.