

2. Continue discussion of the cycling/trail running events coming through town: C. Obert has created a letter for local businesses, inviting them to make themselves an event supporter as well as accessible to the event participants but especially to family and friends who are awaiting the completion of the event and can get to local businesses during the day. Community Service groups will be invited to participate. Multiple events are scheduled: 1). Hartford Marathon 90 mile Relay Race, in August. 2). the Thompson Turkey Trot. 3). the March 24 (Sunday) second annual Bicycle event, which begins/ends at the Speedway.

3. Update EDC contact information: the official Commission has been updated for Bob Larkin and to add Brian Loffredo, as well as to change the title for Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek.

VII. New Business

1. Community Garden Project (bypassed for this fiscal year) will provide for raised beds for community members to sign up for and plant. Randy Blackmer (Ag Commission) will follow up. He has had the soil tested at 65 Main Street, the former TEEG location. The exact terms and provisions of the Tourtellotte Trust will be in the forefront of planning for use of the site for the Community Garden. A matching-funds grant program may be available.

- Use the Farm Passport program to solicit interest and Reserve EDC funds: utilizing 19-20 budget funds, the plan should come to realization.

2. Enhance functionality of Planning & Development and EDC webpage: the EDC will not need to pay for a supplemental page on the website. A list of what should be included on this page has been created. The site will also include recognition of previous Business of the Year recipients. New Trade Names/Businesses can be added, along with a few works explaining what they do. Special events which could have an impact on businesses can be listed (such as the 2 identified above which are organized from out of town). A link to Commercial Realtors can be provided, for possible business interest in moving into Thompson or a business looking to expand locally. R. Larkin added: be certain the overall effect is to communicate that Thompson IS Green AND Growing.

- There are suggestions from Town Clerk for projects the Town Planner can implement.

- - The intern to work on the website, facebook and other social media has been hired and begun work. The project will continue this fiscal year through June, with possible continuation next fiscal year beginning in July.

3. Thompson Train Wreck t-shirt swag: a sample logo was presented by T. Penn-Gesek. The tee shirts would be a "counter-culture" under the radar fun idea. After a favorable review of the idea, C. Obert said he will bring it to the Trails Committee to consider for implementation. They will bring history into the design a little more firmly by adding the Train Wreck date on the back of the shirt.

VIII. Progress Reports:

1. Zoning Regulations revision: June 3 meeting with NECCOG may result in a final draft of proposed changes, the goal being to make Thompson more business-friendly
2. Unified signage program & tie-in with branding, business promotion: in process
3. Farm Passport Program update: weather has been a deterrent
4. Design a park-like setting for the train wreck site – the J&D Civil Engineers plan was reviewed by C. Obert. Funds to move ahead were approved last month. The event at the Train Wreck site is June 1.

IX. Comments by Commission Members: R. Larkin- let's not forget about trying to reserve time on the large billboard across from the Town Hall; TBA has previously used it. C. Obert - the Bull Hill parcels owned by the Town and by Windham Land Trust may be coordinated for use for a mountain bike park trail near the soccer field. This is a fine example of finding opportunities for outdoor activities, perhaps to dovetail with other organizations or events. K. Beausoleil will be asked about assistance from DPW at the Historic Airline Trail Train Wreck site

X. Next Meeting: REMINDER June 5 Branding Implementation Event as well as June 19, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

XI. Adjournment by Chair B. Yacino was at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted; Dorothy Durst, Recording Secretary *Dorothy Durst*

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.