



TOWN of THOMPSON

RECEIVED
TOWN OF THOMPSON, CT.

2019 JUN 24 P 3:07
Jinda Paradise
Ass't, TOWN CLERK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

Town Hall: Seney Meeting Room

MINUTES

- I. The call to order by Chai Brian Yacino was at 6:30 PM
Present: Chairman Brian Yacino H. Charles Obert
Brian Loffredo Jo Ann Hall
Brian Santos John Sharpe
Robert Larkin
First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, ex officio, Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, ex officio
Dotti Durst, Recording Secretary
- II. **Motion J. Sharpe seconded by C. Obert to approve the minutes of May 15, 2019 carried unanimously with note of a typo on page 2**
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman- See agenda items
 2. Treasurer- J. Hall reported current balance to be \$21,818.69. Several larger commitments should be deducted soon as the fiscal year ends.
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town: Auto Styles, Mobile Auto Detailing and RMF, real estate investments. B. Santos- asked the status of Welcome letter both for new businesses and all existing businesses. T. Penn-Gesek can now send out letters to new businesses. Question: who can obtain the database and send out the letter to current businesses? Question- status of Quinn Shirt Shop rehab? K. Beausoleil – two causes for delay: solar field issue and Eversource connecting the building to the solar field.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items: none
- VI. Old Business
 1. Electronic sign for Town Hall- bids closed today. The goal is to have the bids opened by the BOS and the contract awarded in this fiscal year.
 2. Trails and other Signage- funding is in place for Phase One and should be encumbered in this fiscal year. A neighbor has offered to provide an access way. If a cart bridge can be upgraded, the trail could be extended from the Train Wreck site to the Tri-State Marker, a frequently-visited spot. Tee shirts featuring the Train Wreck are being seen around town; they are available in the Recreation Office. Trails Day brought about 50 people. The last Saturday in August will feature the relay race utilizing some parts of the Airline Trail, with hopes that a baton-pass or other aspect will take place at the new site. Discussion: Create a Passport Program for Thompson's Trails; the maps are already available. The consensus was to move ahead with this; the EDC budget has funds to cover printing costs.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

815 RIVERSIDE DRIVE • NO. GROSVENORDALE, CONNECTICUT 06255

TELEPHONE (860) 923-9475 • FAX (860) 923-9897

VII. New Business

1. Adventure racing program at Thompson Speedway: the representative could not attend

2. Anaerobic Digester/electric power generation: Fort Hill Farm- power generation proposal. They secured funding including grants totaling \$4.1million. The BOS asked K. Beausoleil to bring the question of how to support local business as well as prospective new businesses, since the question of incentivizing business location or growth IS Economic Development. The question: should a policy or program be established? Planner T. Penn-Gesek – the EDC Chair could set up a letter stating the possibility of a flexible approach based on perceived value to the town. Examples: the proposal is consistent with the PoCD, and is one of the prioritized goals of Economic Development, such as promoting/retaining Agriculture, is a sustainable project, would have a positive impact on the Grand List, complies with the Planning and Zoning Regulations, or others. To support the concept, B. Santos has seen the term *General Specifics* which create a priority or value assigned to each of these considerations which guide decision making or negotiations. The flexibility concept realizes each proposed project will have perceived benefits. Once identified, this document could be added to the EDC Bylaws. MSRAC is directly involved with the Mill revitalization process; it should also be sent to Branding Implementation for additional feedback. **Next month-** place the topic on the EDC agenda for review.

3. Community Day Saturday , October 5th – EDC's "Business of the Year" forms are available. Nominations must be in by the Monday before the September EDC meeting, so a decision can be made then. The Fire Chiefs are involved in displaying trucks, the TBA is spreading posters, a car show is being expanded, food trucks are invited; the goal is to draw more people especially from surrounding towns.

4. Hartford Marathon Foundation: see above

VIII. Progress Reports:

1. Zoning Regulations revision: the draft is available. PnZ is eager to wrap this up.
2. Farm Passport Program- underway, but had a major setback with early spring rain
3. Other updates: none

IX. Comments by Commission Members: Thank you to Dotti who has a conflict on Wednesdays and cannot remain in her position. Kudos to T. Penn-Gesek and all the EDC and Branding Implementation Committee members for a super job at the Branding exercise.

Next Meeting: NOTE- Consideration is being given to a Special Branding Implementation Committee meeting the last week of the month

Next scheduled meeting: July 17, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

X. Adjournment was at 8:03 PM by Chair B. Yacino.

Respectfully Submitted; Dorothy 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.