



TOWN of THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Town Hall: Second Floor

MINUTES

I. The call to order by Chair Brian Yacino was at 6:36 PM

Present: Chairman Brian Yacino

John Sharpe

Jo Ann Hall

H. Charles Obert

First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, ex officio, Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, ex officio

Ashley Pomes, Recording Secretary, Dotti Durst, Recording Secretary

Absent: Brian Santos

Robert Larkin

Brian Loffredo

II. **Motion Jo Ann Hall seconded by John Sharpe to approve the minutes of June 19, 2019 carried unanimously.**

III. Reports

1. Chairman- None at this time

2. Treasurer- There was no report available. K Beausoleil made a statement about the new fiscal year and limiting spending until the budget passes.

IV. Update on Businesses in Town: New home occupation, Urban Ventures (off-site residential painting) located at 16 B Buckley Hill Rd. Baker's Auto moved from Putnam and is currently sharing space with Convenient Graphics. Nutmeg Container moved into Johnson Corrugated and has begun operation. C. Obert: seeks a list of the industrial businesses in town to be contacted for possible involvement with events.

V. Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items: none

VI. Old Business

VII. 1. Electronic sign for Town Hall- received one bid from Graphic Unltd. Sign to replace existing town hall sign. Zoning issues need to be resolved before sign can be purchased and placed.

2. CME proposal for Wayfinding Plan and Signage Design- T. Penn-Gesek has completed a grant, it will provide a unified defined concept for sign. CME proposal est. funds are half accounted for already. Grant award will be announced in November.

3. Flexible incentives (based on perceived benefits) to help businesses with startup costs, permits, etc. - Nothing yet, continue discussion next month

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VIII. New Business

1. Possibly joining the CT Main Streets Network, and also exploring their recommendation for setting up a TIF (Tax Increment Financing) Funding District- Specific area in town can be designated a TIF district, not selected at random, funds will stay where the district is designated. C. Obert says EDC should support this. T. Penn-Gesek gave out packets with guidelines to read and will discuss further next month.

VIII. Progress Reports:

1.Zoning Regulations revision: the draft is available. T. Penn-Gesek meeting Tuesday

2.Farm Passport Program- Event this Sunday 7/21 at Fort Hill

3.Trails Racing Program- Parcel of land along trail owned by Rawson Mfg is being donated for parking for 8/24 event. 2 Banners are in design phase, possible local business sponsorship/ advertising on banners. Banners will be movable and can be reused.

4.Train Wreck Site Improvements- T. Penn-Gesek is submitting a grant to the National Parks Service for a non-monetary grant. The grant is for guidance in creating the Train Wreck Site info kiosk.

5.Community Garden- 65 Main, former location of TEEG. Ground breaking event scheduled for Sat. 10/19. There will be raised garden beds, possible 1 day farmers market, live music, presentation about the property. C. Obert, Putnam rotary has bare root trees available that can be staged for winter at this site. School staff/students to possibly design and construct raised beds.

6.Community Day development & EDC's "Business of the Year"- Art show applications live on website, subject is art from trash/recycling. Business of the Year application is also on-line, Volunteer of the Year award being presented by Recreation.

IX. Comments by Commission Members: B. Yacino, Thank you to Dotti for serving as recording secretary.

Next Meeting: August 21, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

X. Adjournment was at 8:01 PM by Chair B. Yacino.

Respectfully Submitted; Ashley Pomes, Recording Secretary Ashley Pomes

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.