



TOWN of THOMPSON

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Linda Paradise
TOWN CLERK, A&T

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Economic Development Commission Minutes

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

2nd floor, Town Hall 6:30 P.M.

- I. The call to order by Chair Brian Yacino was at 6:30pm
Present: Chairman Brian Yacino, H. Charles Obert, Jo Ann Hall, Brian Santos
First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, ex officio; Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, ex officio
Ashley Pomes, Recording Secretary
Absent: Brian Loffredo, Robert Larkin, John Sharpe
- II. **Motion J. Hall seconded by C. Obert to approve the minutes of July 17, 2019 carried unanimously.**
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman- No official report
 2. Treasurer- No official report
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town- New business opening at 929 Riverside Drive by the name of Old Car Clearance. Joyasanah Yoga has closed their studio in town.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items- None
- VI. Old Business
 1. CT Main Streets – No new updates, continue next month
 2. CME proposal for Wayfinding Plan and Signage Design- \$20k project- EDC commission put aside \$5,000 at the end of the last fiscal year; CME says they can pull additional \$5,000 out of the Bar Grant. T. Penn-Gesek has submitted a proposal to The Last Green Valley for additional grant funding for the last \$10,000. Project cannot be fulfilled until funds are available. Continue next meeting.
 3. Flexible incentives (based on perceived benefits) to help businesses with startup costs, permits, etc.- B. Santos questions how to publicize/help businesses in town to learn about available funding. Possibility of adding "Did you know?" section on webpage. Fort Hill Farm needs help coming up with the last 1% of funds needed for 500-acre agricultural project. C. Obert to draft a letter this week to help support project.
- VII. New Business
 1. Portrait of a Graduate Oct 2- Board of Education is running this program. A national initiative, consisting of a series of community discussions to determine what core skills children should come out of school with. After establishing what skills are most important, a curriculum will be worked up around those skills.

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VIII. Progress Reports:

1. Zoning Regulations revision-T. Penn-Gesek has attended first meeting with the new planning administration, they are headed in the right direction to settle on regulations. 2-3 more meetings to finalize and then get out for public review to be done by the end of the year.
2. Electronic sign for Town Hall- Pending zoning and budget, continue next meeting.
3. Farm Passport Program- Bad spring weather gave a rough start to this program; the Turkey Trot on 11/10/19 is the last event on the calendar for this year. Program will be tried again next year.
4. Trails racing program- RiMaConn Race is this Saturday 8/24/19. C. Obert to obtain a key to unlock all gates on trails for the runners to pass through, also has cleaned up some overgrown areas on the trails. Graphics Unlimited to make up "Stop and visit for a while" banner this week to be in place for the race on Saturday. Sponsorship of local businesses on the sign is paying for the cost.
5. Train Wreck Site improvements (and grant for info kiosk)- C. Obert is working on the area of interest on the map from Sand dam Rd to the state line with the train wreck site in the middle. Idea is to make the area easily accessible for anyone from anywhere to come and do a self-guided tour.
6. Community Garden- T. Penn-Gesek has a meeting this week to get an estimate to stabilize the exterior structure. Two grants are out for the funds for the garden. The shop teacher from the high school will be meeting at the site to discuss the students designing & constructing raised beds. 9/28 is Volunteer Clean Up Day to clean the exterior site, 10/19 will be the ground breaking event with local vendors and live music.
7. Community Day development & EDC's "Business of the Year"- EDC Commission to pick "Business of the Year" winner at September's meeting, REC to pick the "Volunteer of the year". T. Penn-Gesek has a shed/chalet being constructed free of charge, Morning Beckons Farm will be set up in shed for Community Day.

IX. Comments by Commission Members- B. Santos will be doing some work on the EDC webpage soon.

X. Next Meeting:
September 18, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

XI. Adjournment was at 8:02pm by Chair Brian 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 amendment to these minutes.

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