



TOWN of THOMPSON

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ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Economic Development Commission Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2019

Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall 6:30 P.M.

- I. The call to order by Chair Brian Yacino was at 6:31pm
Present: Chairman Brian Yacino, H. Charles Obert, Jo Ann Hall, Brian Santos, Brian Loffredo, Robert Larkin, John Sharpe, First Selectman Ken Beausoleil, ex officio; Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, ex officio, Ashley Pomes, Recording Secretary
Absent: None
- II. **Motion J. Hall seconded by C. Obert to approve the minutes of August 21, 2019 carried unanimously.**
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman- No official report
 2. Treasurer- No official report
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town- Red Beard's Bait and More has opened at 136 Brandy Hill Rd. GM Creative Concrete LLC has opened at 1 Quaddick Town Farm Rd, specializing in concrete finishing
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items- None
- VI. Old Business
 1. CME proposal for Wayfinding Plan and Signage Design- T. Penn-Gesek has submitted a proposal to The Last Green Valley for grant funding, project cannot be fulfilled until funds are available. B. Loffrado questions adding town attractions on a highway sign to encourage people to visit Thompson. Continue next meeting.
 2. CT crowdfunding match program- T. Penn-Gesek attended a sustainable funding workshop featuring not for profit crowdfunding platform IOB (In Our Backyard). This program will match any funds earned up to \$25,000 for town projects. No organization can have more than one project open at a time but there can be multiple campaigns per town at the same time being run by different organizations.
- VII. New Business
 1. Choose 2019 EDC "Business of the Year"- Voting on 5 nominees took place through a secret ballot and the winner will be announced at Community Day 2019. The nominees were Famous Franks Milltown Grille, Thompson House of Pizza, Tee Rex Mini Golf, Thompson Auto Care and The Country Garden Daycare.

MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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VIII. Progress Reports:

1. Zoning Regulations revision- Meetings with the new planning administration are continuing, new regulations will be submitted to NECCOG once completed.
2. Electronic sign for Town Hall- On hold until funds are available, continue next meeting.
3. Trails racing program- RiMaConn Race on 8/24/19 was a success. Due to a non-working key giving to C. Obert, he had to redirect runners around the locked gate until someone arrived with the correct key. More volunteers were needed for the exchange station. Will be doing this race again next year. C. Obert has no new news on Cyclocross yet.
4. Train Wreck Site improvements (and grant for info kiosk)- C. Obert says enough money has been obtained for the civil engineer to finish the drawings. People will be giving opportunity to further discuss and give input at October Trails Committee meeting prior to finishing drawings.
5. Community Garden- Plot has been marked out, EDC funds resulted in \$2,000 worth of lumber being delivered to the school for the kids to start on making the raised beds. 9/28 is clean-up day from 9am-1pm. Dedication Day is 10/19 from 12-4pm, there will be music, a 1-day farmers market and 10 vendors as well as talk about future plans for the building and sign-ups for who wants to be part of the garden in 2020.
6. Community Day car cruise & EDC's "Business of the Year"- B. Yacino has 10 cars tentatively signed up for the car cruise. "Business of the Year" was voted on and the winner will be announced at Community Day.
7. Reminder: Portrait of a Graduate Oct 2- 6:30pm at the library.
8. Flexible incentives (based on perceived benefits) to help businesses with startup costs, permits, etc.- Continue next meeting

IX. Comments by Commission Members- T. Penn-Gesek attended a seminar in Hamden, a business incubator project with a 42,000 sq. ft building. It was a 9-10 year project in an old school. When completed it will offer co-workspace, great for startup businesses, meeting rooms for hire, the old gym will be available for light manufacturing. Discussions on what can be done with the 65 Main St building similar to this on a smaller scale.

X. Next Meeting:
October 16, 2019: 6:30 pm, 2nd floor, Town Hall

XI. Adjournment was at 7:56pm 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.