



TOWN of THOMPSON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Economic Development Commission Minutes

Wednesday, October 16, 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, Brian Loffredo, ex officio; Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek, ex officio; Ashley Pomes, Recording Secretary
Absent: Robert Larkin, John Sharpe
- II. **Motion J. Hall seconded by B. Loffredo to approve the minutes of September 18, 2019 carried unanimously.**
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman- No official report
 2. Treasurer- EDC has a budget for the new fiscal year of \$25,000.
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town- New business, Fabian's Cleaning and Reconditioning has opened at 118 Fabyan Woodstock Road; new home occupation permit for 50 Wrightson Drive for a home office. Faraway Café has closed for business. Milltown Grill will be opening for breakfast on Sundays starting November 3rd.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items- None
- VI. Old Business
 1. 2019 Community Day and EDC "Business of the Year"- Community day was a success. Thompson Auto Care won Business of the Year. B. Yacino suggests for next year to let the businesses know when they have been nominated. Also, after hearing feedback from vendors, they would like to have assigned spots to set up in for next year. B. Santos suggests an athletic event such as a 5K road race for next year for the morning of Community Day with the finish line being at the Community Day location.
 2. CT crowdfunding match program- No new update
- VII. New Business
 1. EDC members terms expiring in 2019.
 - H. Charles Obert 12/31/2019, would like to continue as a member
 - John Sharpe 12/31/2019, was not present
 - Robert Larkin 12/31/2019, was not present
 - Brian Loffredo 12/31/2019, would like to continue as a member
 2. 2020 meeting schedule- **Motion C. Obert seconded by B. Santos to approve the proposed 2020 meeting schedule carried unanimously.**

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VIII. Progress Reports:

1. Zoning Regulations revision- B. Santos says meetings are continuing as planned and they are on track to be completed by the end of the year.
2. Electronic sign for Town Hall- Continue next meeting.
3. Train Wreck Site improvements (and grant for info kiosk)- C. Obert has met with a surveyor, certain material will be put into the legend on the site plan, all key points will show up on the final drawings.
4. Community Garden- Dedication October 19, 12-4pm- The grant submitted by T. Penn-Gesek has been approved and funds have been spent on materials for the raised beds. **Motion C. Obert seconded by B. Loffredo to encumber \$5,000 for Community Garden project carried unanimously.**
5. Portrait of a Graduate Oct. 2- Good turnout- videos of this event have been posted on Facebook for viewing. J. Hall spoke with a teacher at Community Day who said she had great feedback from the towns people.
6. CME proposal for Wayfinding Plan and Signage Design – grant progress- B. Loffredo says T. Penn-Gesek was at the Trails meeting to discuss this and it will be continued at their December meeting.

IX. Comments by Commission Members- C. Obert says Cyclocross event is on for 2020, also there may be a similar event on Nov. 23rd that is entirely within the town of Thompson, he will look further into this. He also spoke about the transfer station recycling plastics 1 & 2, possibility of looking for a place that would recycle all plastics. He is also in talks with someone from the Northeast Connecticut Community Orchestra, looking into a way for them to perform in the school auditorium, possibly during the holiday concert or in a different way that the music department may be interested in, he will be looking further into this. B. Yacino has met with 4 students from UCONN about the pop-up sheds, possibility of putting one across from the gazebo in the park.

X. Next Meeting:

November 20, 2019: 6:30 pm, Merrill Seney Room, Town Hall

XI. Adjournment was at 7:59pm 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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