



TOWN *of* THOMPSON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Economic Development Commission Minutes

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

Via ZOOM 6:30 P.M.

- I. Call to Order was by Chair B. Yacino at 6:34pm
Present: Chair Brian Yacino, Brian Santos, JoAnn Hall, H. Charles Obert, Brian Loffredo, Planner Tyra Penn-Gesek
Others Present: First Selectman Amy St. Onge, Town Clerk Renee Waldron, Recreation Director Lesley Munshower, Recording Secretary Ashley Pomes, Brian Flaherty
Absent: John Sharpe
- II. Approval of Minutes: May 20, 2020 – Motion by J. Hall seconded by B. Loffredo to approve the minutes carried unanimously.
- III. Reports
 1. Chairman – No official report
 2. Treasurer – Per J. Hall there is \$12,887.82 still in the budget, T. Penn-Gesek says a lot of that has already been expended. She is working with Orla to get a new spreadsheet to J. Hall.
- IV. Update on Businesses in Town – No businesses have opened or closed.
- V. Citizen's Comments Pertaining to Agenda Items - None
- VI. Old Business
 1. Progress for EDC alternate – No new progress
 2. Thompson brochure – T. Penn-Gesek says they were not able to convince ERTD to commit their funds prior to the end of this fiscal year at their last meeting so this will be put on hold for now with these funds being used towards the RFP.
- VII. New Business
 1. Community Day discussion – R. Waldron says the Community Day Committee has met a few times to discuss if this event will be able to go on and how. There is no definitive answer on this yet, but it is looking like the official Community Day event will not be taking place. If this happens, there will be some things that will still take place on their own that would have been part of this such as the town tag sale and possibly an art show with some local vendor artists. B. Yacino says he will add Business of the Year to the agenda for July and see if that will be able to go on by then.
- VIII. Progress Reports:
 1. Zoning Regulations revision – T. Penn-Gesek states this is nearing the end, there has been 3 meetings so far to review the public's comments on the proposed draft and

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there will likely be 2 more. After that a new final draft will be posted with an informal Q&A followed by a public hearing scheduled for any new comments with the time being left open for people to email in any comments for one week. Once that is complete the new regulations will be voted on and adopted hopefully by the end of July. B. Santos mentions what a great job T. Penn-Gesek has done with this.

2. Electronic sign for Town Hall – No new updates
3. Train Wreck Site – drone footage & invoice, counter, songwriting competition – B. Yacino asks about the invoice received for the drone footage, C. Obert states that it was only his estimate not an actual invoice, they are currently working on getting DEEP to allow the drone on the state land and waive the permit fee. C. Obert also spoke about the Trails Committee having a tri fold map they are looking in to getting printed. They are looking at Chase Graphics to print it right now but B. Yacino mentioned to look into a company in Charlton that has been used before, they usually can print more for the money. C. Obert also spoke about the want for adding 5 QR codes on the back of the map for different Commissions/Committees in the town, suggesting Trails, REC, EDC, Historical and Agricultural. R. Waldron said she can get some codes together and was told she could talk to Karen Durlach, Trails Committee Chair, about that as she is the go-to person for the QR code inclusion on the maps. The songwriting competition is live right now on the town YouTube page, there is still a week and a half left to vote. T. Penn-Gesek asks for everyone to share this competition with people as much as possible as the purpose of this is to draw attention to the trails with people from all over. The winner will be announced on June 30th.
4. CME Wayfinding Plan and Signage (IOBY) – June 23 virtual community workshop – This event is to teach about signage and wayfinding in Thompson and to help residents and visitors with traveling throughout the town. This is a Zoom event with the live link as well as call in information listed on the Thompson town website.
5. “**Nips** for Holiday Cheer” April 1 - December 5. \$10 gift card / 100 **nips** collected – There has been another successful collection with enough funds to collect in July as well. T. Penn-Gesek has reached out to The Walmart Foundation for fundraising, if they choose to donate the full \$5,000 then collections will be able to continue through December. Brian Flaherty was sitting in on the meeting, he spoke about Three Tiers for Connecticut which contributed some money towards this event as well. They are a collaboration between manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of wine and spirits working to eradicate land-based litter, specifically ‘nip’ bottles, they are partnered with Live Green CT.
6. “Six Months of Suffrage” – The next scheduled event for this is the concert in the park being put on by the REC department. Tyra Penn and the Snakes of Amazonia will be performing on Friday July 17th at 6:30pm and it will be located in the softball field instead of at the Gazebo. Recreation Director Lesley Munshower has scheduled a flatbed trailer to be dropped off in the outfield for the performance and it will be left there for the weekend for another concert performance on Saturday night. This will also happen for one weekend in August and September as well with a concert happening on a Friday and Saturday. R. Waldron and T. Penn-Gesek state what a great job L. Munshower is doing with scheduling these events and finding a way for them to still take place. There will be voter registration cards located at this concert event on July 17th.

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7. Pop-Up Village – There is one shed built already with the desire to build another with funds from the 2021 budget. Also, the possibility of another IOBY in January to raise funds to build more sheds if the COVID situation allows for donations to be possible.
8. Natchaug Epic postponed to August 9 – This event will take place in a “friendly format”; they are looking for a few volunteers for this event still. RiMaConn has also been officially cancelled for this year.

IX. Executive Session

1. RFP responses for marketing consultant to continue with Branding strategy – T. Penn-Gesek listed all 12 companies that have made proposals that will be discussed during the Executive Session. They are as follows:
Andrews of Enfield CT; Black Ink of Old Greenwich CT; Current of Tallahassee FL; Elements of Branford CT; Grova Creative of Tallahassee FL; Jennerate of Thompson CT; Kelly-Sullivan of CT; Peralta of Shelton CT; Pivot Pace of Lawrenceville GA; Strategic & Creative of Aurora IL; Sullivan and LeShane of Hartford CT; T2 Creative of Brooklyn CT
Motion made by B. Santos to enter Executive Session seconded by C. Obert at 7:32pm. The Executive Session included all present EDC members as well as Renee Waldron and Lesley Munshower.
The Commission came out of Executive Session at 8:11pm

- X. Comments by Commission Members – B. Santos is going to update a flyer he had emailed to the Commission for their approval to post at the trail kiosks. He is going to include a QR code for the EDC page on it and then will email it out to Commission members for their approval.

- XI. Next Meeting: Wednesday July 15th, 2020; 6:30PM, Location TBD

- XII. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by C. Obert seconded by B. Santos carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

Topic: Economic Development Commission

Date: Jun 17, 2020 06:06 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Share recording with viewers:

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